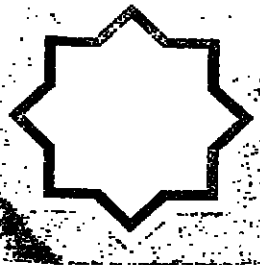


The Star



Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

Le Jourdain
Supplément en français du Star

**Hisham et Nabil,
les maîtres de la satire**

Voir page 10

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اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

After the riots, talk of political reform

King, government work to defuse political crisis

By Hamdan Al Hajj and
Raed Al Abed

AS LIFE returned to normal in the south of the country, after three days of public disturbances over bread prices, the political crisis that accompanied it still looms in Amman. The government has not shown signs of retraction from its economic reform policies while the opposition parties renewed its demands for the resignation of the Kabarti government, decreasing the bread prices and fodder and the release of prisoners who were arrested after the riots in the south two weeks ago.

The 11-party opposition bloc, which includes 23 Lower House deputies, is changing its tactics now that Parliament is in recess. The opposition has directly appealed to His Majesty the King to intervene. Two separate memos were sent to King Hussein by opposition parties and deputies accusing the government of avoiding "national dialogue." The memos suggested to the King four ways to defuse tension. Overruling the government's decision to increase the prices of bread and fodder is the

centerpiece of the opposition demand. They also called to end all forms of military presence, and for the release of all those detained in the past two weeks in connection with the riots. A national dialogue was also suggested by the opposition, but "any form of positive and active dialogue could not be achieved while our party activists are behind bars, and could not be achieved while the attacks on people and the opposite opinion continues by the government."

On his part, the King, in a series of speeches to deputies and the public, sent clear signals aimed at defusing the crisis, assuring Jordanians and creating a comprehensive national dialogue.

But what will be the basis of the dialogue, when the two sides of the equation, the opposition and the government, refuse to make, or appear to be making, concessions to one another.

A comprehensive national dialogue has become an urgent need, observers believe. It is the only way to defuse the crisis and relaunch the political process.



King addresses Lower House deputies on Thursday

However, observers say the government will remain and that its decisions will not be reversed. Driving this point home is the King's personal and renewed support of his prime minister. Change is unlikely to occur before the end of the year, it is maintained.

Amman's political salons talk of the conciliatory role that Crown Prince Hassan could play in the coming days. They note

that Prince Hassan's views were not heard during the latest developments and even before—since the new government took over. Some newspapers speculated that the Crown Prince was not pleased with the government's latest measures over bread and fodder subsidies and that he would have liked a compromise to be found between the government and the Lower House over the issue.

It is not yet clear how the process of political reform, which is to accompany economic readjustment, will begin. But observers believe that the King and the government are discussing active measures to be adopted soon. Sources speculated that there is an intention to reactivate the Royal Commission for the National Charter, headed by former prime minister Ahmad Obaidat, who has long been considered a common basis between the opposition camp and deci-

sion makers in the country. The Committee, which was assigned by the King in 1990, directly after the declaration of the democratic process in the country, succeeded in providing a common ground for all the political colors in the country.

The same observers say the King has reiterated his support of the Kabarti government on a number of occasions, the last was during his meeting with former prime ministers of Jordan, which lasted over four hours. Among them were Ahmad Obaidat and Taher Al Masri who warned against the future risks if the problem remains unresolved.

But with such a strong mandate from the King, the government is expected to maintain its current course but will also try to restore public confidence in its policies as soon as possible.

Continued on page 2

Israelis told not to panic in wake of Syrian troop moves

By Barton Gellman

LA Times-Washington Post News Service
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM—A series of Syrian troop movements along Israel's northern border, dismissed at first as insignificant or routine, has generated growing unease here amid the deepest diplomatic impasse since the two nations began peace talks in 1991. The Syrian initiatives, which include stepped-up military exercises and repositioning of substantial combat units near the Israeli border, follow an exchange of veiled and not-so-veiled threats this month between the Israeli and Syrian governments.

No immediate risk of conflict is seen by Arab, Israeli or American analysts, and there has been no decisive shift in the balance of forces along the confrontation line on the Golan Heights.

But although divided on whether the Syrian moves are intended as self-defense or saber-rattling, experts in and out of government described them as the first significant manipulation of military forces since the two adversaries agreed to meet face to face at the Madrid Conference five years ago.

Israel and Syria have long fought a low-level proxy war in the Israeli-controlled portion of southern Lebanon, where Hezbollah guerrillas operating from Syrian-controlled territory battle

Israeli troops and the Israeli-sponsored South Lebanon Army. Israeli and Syrian forces, however, have taken pains to avoid direct conflict.

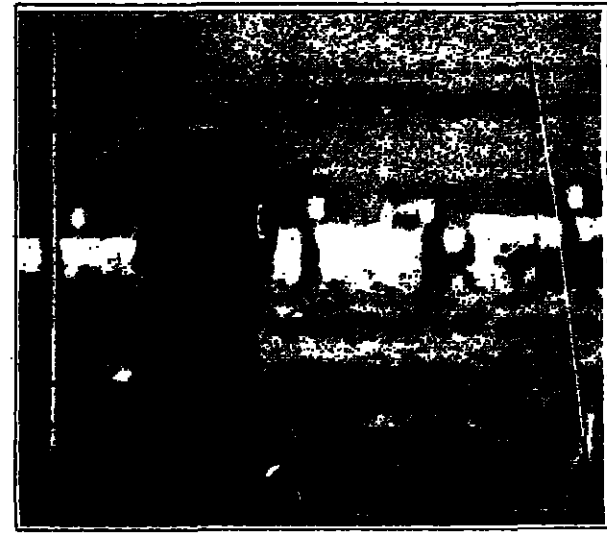
Apart from marking a new low in their dialogue, the implied menace of the new deployments, together with the likelihood of countermeasures by Israel, carry a logic of their own that is worrisome to Israeli officials and foreign diplomats here.

Although they were cautious in their appraisals, several said they feared that the

two sides could stumble into an escalation that neither intends.

Beneath the growing tension is Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's rejection of any Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, which Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war.

In recent contacts that were mediated by the United States, Netanyahu notified Syria that he does not feel bound by a set of nine informal understandings reached by Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres at



All is seemingly quiet on the Golan

negotiations at the Wye Plantation in Maryland before Netanyahu defeated Peres in elections last May.

The major Syrian military movements involve units based in Lebanon, where at least 35,000 Syrian troops have controlled the bulk of the country since 1976.

Tuesday, according to officials with access to Israeli and foreign intelligence reports, Syria continued to shift the tanks

Continued on page 2



CHICAGO—First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Tipper Gore acknowledge each other after the Vice President's wife introduced Mrs. Clinton at the Democratic National Convention which opened this week. UPI

New phone rates as of November

AMMAN (Star)—Minister of Telecommunications Jamal Al Sarairah presented Wednesday details of the Cabinet decision to "restructure telephone services rate." Installation and subscription fees for office telephones have been raised to JD250 and JD400 respectively, while fees remained unchanged for home telephones. Mr. Sarairah said that the TCC will reduce costs of international calls by an average of 20% in addition to the reduced night rate, which will extend to local and national calls.

On the other hand, Mr. Sarairah said cost of local and national calls will be calculated on the basis of one minute units and that subscribers will have 335 free minutes every month. Each additional minute will be charged at 9 fils for local calls (6.3 fils night rate) and 41 fils for national calls (28.7 fils night rate).

He said these and other related measures will be effective early November.

Nasser film strikes needed chord of national pride

By John Daniszewski
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

CAIRO—Tahrir Cinema manager Said Ibrahim Musaoud says he has never seen anything like it—the long lines at the box office, the cheering of "God is great" during showings and the murmurs of "I remember those days ..." as moviegoers file out into the night.

Egypt's film sensation of the year—Nasser 56—is a grainy, black-and-white docudrama that brings back a golden period in the life of former Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser, the summer and autumn of 1956 when he nationalized the Suez Canal and stood his ground against the outrage and the guns of Britain, France and Israel.

The movie paints Nasser as a supreme chess player, a fearless leader, a devoted father and a simple man of the people. Not to mention a dashing figure with a movie-star eyes. Although it lasts nearly three ponderous hours, the film is striking a much-needed chord of national pride in this filthy, chaotic and impoverished megalopolis. It reminds viewers of the grand

dreams they shared in the heady years after Egypt had finally thrown off centuries of domination by British, French and Turkish foreigners.

"It's like watching a history book," said 18-year-old Ahmad Mofii, a student at the American University of Cairo.

Nasser, the army colonel who headed the Free Officers who forced the pro-British playboy King Farouk to abdicate in 1952, is played by actor Ahmad Zaki. He captures the look, voice and mannerisms of Nasser as he walks along a beach, cupping a cigarette and brooding about how to finance the Aswan High Dam project.

His dilemma: The United States and Britain have withdrawn their offer to help finance the Nile River dam that will meet



Ahmad Zaki as Gamal Abdel Nasser

Egypt's needs for power and a more regular flow of water to cultivate land to feed its burgeoning population.

Nasser sees the rejection as super-power politics, aimed at keeping Egypt poor and tethered to the West. His answer: nationalize the Suez Canal Company, a European-dominated state-within-a-state that has been a blot on Egyptian sovereignty since the canal opened in 1869.

For the next hour or so of the movie, Nasser springs his brain-

storm on various aides and ministers, who react with either uncontrolled joy or sheer terror. The always-practical Egyptian secret service dispatches a spy to figure out how the West will react.

Between the president's many appointments, there are repeated scenes of Nasser's four children rushing in to wrap their arms around his knees. Other touches include Nasser piously refusing to allow the army to build a swimming pool for his children, turning up his nose at European food to eat simple peasant fare and telling his teary-eyed wife of his dream to take her on a cruise one day.

The energy of the movie comes in two key speeches—one on July 26, 1956, in Alexandria, when Nasser gives the secret code word and then announces the nationalization of the canal, and the other the following October at a Cairo mosque, when he mounts the pulpit and shouts his defiance to the British-French-Israeli military alliance that has seized the Sinai.

Critics of the movie in Egypt say its portrayal of Nasser is too rosy, with no foreshadowing of the mistakes that came later in his rule. Others argue that it gives Nasser too much credit for conceptualizing the nationalization, which had been discussed in patriotic circles for decades.

Egyptians recognize that, but the movie is good for their mood. "We want to take a break from the difficult business of living in a world ridden with political complexities and travel to a past when things were simple," said one critic, "to the days when the movies talked in black and white."

American Muslims active in political process as election nears

WASHINGTON—According to US population polls, the estimated six million Muslims in the United States comprise, or soon will comprise, the second largest religious community in the country. Their increasing numbers make them an emerging voice on the American political scene, and in cities across the country, Muslim citizens are mobilizing to express their views in anticipation of the upcoming national election.

In an effort to promote family values, prevent crime, combat drug abuse, and encourage other worthwhile social goals, the Washington-based Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), and the newly formed Muslim Women for America

(MWA) held a joint press conference August 26 to designate September 13 "Muslim voter registration day" and to announce several initiatives designated to increase American Muslim participation in the political process.

Nihad Awad, executive director of CAIR, reported that his organization is encouraging America's Muslim communities to form local voter registration committees; contact voter registration offices to gather information about local regulations; on September 13, the date designated as American Muslim Voter Registration Day, set up voter registration tables in local mosques.

Islamic centers and Muslim-owned stores and businesses; and on election day, encourage a strong Muslim turnout and conduct exit polling to gauge voting behavior.

Also at the news conference, the Muslim Women's Association outlined a ground breaking mobilization drive aimed at registering, educating and polling Muslim women voters. This new organization has as its focus the political involvement and activity of not only Muslim women, but women of every religious background whom it is encouraging to become politically aware, vote, and run for office.

Continued on page 3

Charles and Di divorce is not yet the end of the story

By Bill Glimber
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

LONDON—Wednesday, they were free at last—from each other. The divorce of Charles and Diana, the prince and princess of Wales, was finalized Wednesday in a routine proceeding that costs \$31.

But what next for the sensational couple? A worldwide television audience of 700 million people watched them marry at St. Paul's Cathedral in 1981. Wednesday, the couple did not even attend the final act of the rancorous union that comes six weeks and a day after a decree nisi was granted in the Family Division of the High Court.

Instead, lawyers gathered, documents checked, and a rubber stamp was applied by a clerk to make the divorce final. Will Charles, 47, now marry his longtime love, 49-year-old Camilla Parker Bowles, the famous "third person in the



End of fairy tale

marriage?" And what are the prospects for Diana, 35, who gives up her royal title but emerges with a divorce settlement that leaves her some \$23 million wealthier?

"He'll do what he has done throughout this crisis, which is work," says Nigel Evans, publisher of Majesty magazine. "She'll have to use wit and charm."

Continued on page 2

هكذا من الأصل

JORDAN WEEK

An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar

King praises RCMD

HIS MAJESTY

King Hussein sent a message to His Royal Highness Prince Hassan congratulating him on the completion of the work of the Royal Commission for Modernization and Development (RCMD). The King said that the government will now study the proposals and take steps to implement them for the benefit of the country. He added that the two-year old commission was set up to study the administrative apparatus of the state and to draw up the framework and the proposals necessary for its development and its modernization. The King said that he hoped the government will use the report to re-enact laws and decisions for the welfare of the country. King Hussein said that he hoped now that the implementation of the recommendations of the decision lead to "flexibility, dynamism and ability to face the many challenges ahead."

In his reply Prince Hassan said that "Since I was given the honor of presiding over the commission two years ago, we set out to find the framework, means and proposals to help achieve justice for all, preserve the interests of the nation and citizens, protect our achievements and pave the way to deal effectively with the continuous changes in the world."



and foreign students. The lowest accepted Tawjihi results for this year is 76.5 percent. But students are increasing yearly. No doubt a lot of them will register in private universities. On another level, a new public university will soon be set up in Balqa.

Life returns to normal in Karak

Karak is back to normal again. No demonstrations, no violence. It is as if the events did not exist. The Governor of Karak, Mr. Badr Al Din Al Weidani, said earlier this week that the curfew is now totally lifted. Meanwhile, those held in detention because of the Karak events are being released. So far, 118 people have been set free. However, the opposition deputies are calling on the government to release all those that are still held in detention. The deputies earlier said that the government should embark on a constructive dialogue. In turn, the latter said that it has released most of those that were detained.

Water reported clean

Thank goodness for small mercies. You will be glad to know that 98.5 percent of the water you are drinking is safe. And that's according to official sources at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation. This is good news indeed as people are increasingly worried about water especially in the hot summer. The ministry came at this figure after extensive testing of water. On another level, the ministry is currently conducting research on water distribution in the Amman area. It is seeking to divide the capital into 60 distribution areas instead of the current eight. The aim is to improve water distribution. The research for the plan costs JD 1 million and

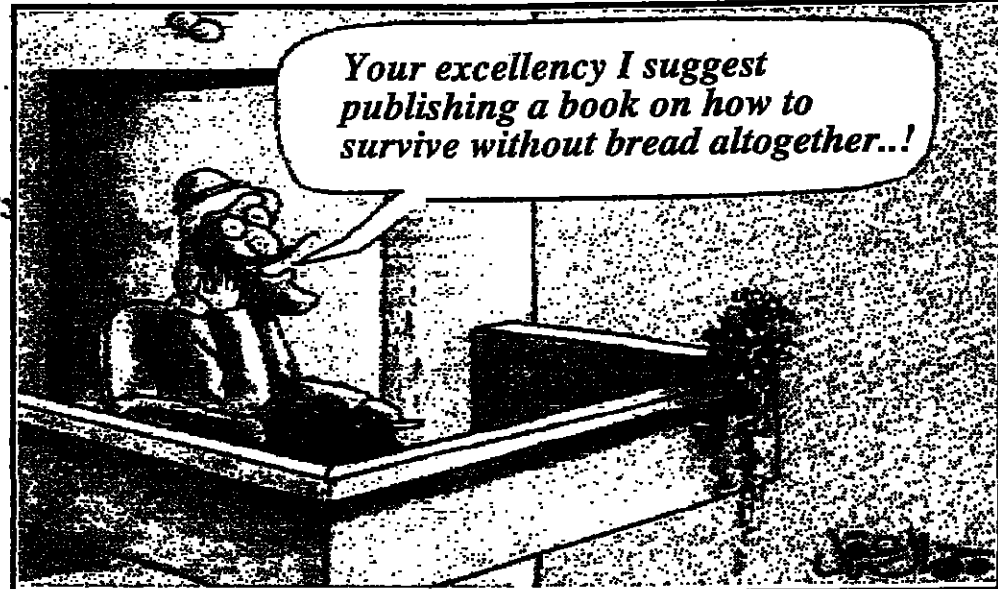
is being financed by the German Construction Bank. Part of the research involves studying the water network system which is currently being modernized. The program which costs the government JD 200 million will be completed by the year 2000.

Moasher defends bread price hike

In his regular meeting with the press, the Minister of Information Dr. Marwan Al Moasher defended the way the government took the decision to increase the price of bread. He rejected accusations that the decision was heavy-handed, said it was studied carefully and presented to the Lower House for further discussion. He added that after 40 days of dialogue with deputies, political parties and trade unions, the government had no choice but to raise bread and fodder prices



Moasher



Prince Talal appointed NSC's director

Prince Talal Bin Mohammad has recently been appointed as director of the National Security Council (NSC) replacing Maj. Gen. Mustapha Al Qaisi who submitted his resignation to His Majesty King Hussein earlier this week.

Prince Talal has worked as the King's military secretary for the past five and a half years. Mr. Qaisi, who has also been a former director of the General Intelligence Dept., said in his resignation letter that he was honored to serve under the King's leadership all these years.

The king has in return extended appreciation of the efforts and services of Al Qaisi over the last 38 years.



because it was not presented with any viable alternatives. The minister said that this was the right choice because it is a responsible government which wants to reduce debts. He continued that the government was proved right about bread wastage. This is because the

bread consumption was reduced by 35 percent. He added that if the wheat subsidy remained the same then the country's debts would have increased by \$1.6 billion in the next 10 years.

US provides Jordan with rice loan

A loan agreement to help Jordan purchase rice from American suppliers was signed this week. The agreement adds \$6 million to an earlier loan of 15 million that was signed in October 1995. It brings the total US agricultural loans in 1996 to \$21 million. About \$13.4 million has been used by Jordan to purchase wheat. However, the latest agreement will enable Jordan to purchase about 19,000 tons of rice. The loan is provided at a concessional interest rate of three percent for the first seven years and four percent thereafter.

Repayment will begin following a grace period of five years and in 16 installments.

Demo promised to be held elsewhere!

The hungry one million, a march that was to start from the Al Hussein Mosque to the Downtown Square last Friday was cancelled. The level of security around the area was very high. The IAF, one of the organizers of the march, promised to hold such a protest shortly. One of their officials said that such a march won't be held in Amman. But that poses a problem. One of the reasons for the failure of last Friday's march was because the Governor of Amman Talal bin Abdullah refused to give permission to the protesters. It is thus doubtful whether other governors across the country would grant such a permission.

Israelis told not to panic

Continued from page 1

and supporting vehicles of an armored brigade from positions east of Beirut—at Bhamdun and Dahr al Baydar, along the main highway linking the Lebanese and Syrian capitals—to the southern Bekaa Valley, close to Israel.

In a more serious development, two of the three regiments of the 14th Syrian Special Forces Division have been withdrawn from Lebanon to take up positions on the Syrian side of Mount Hermon. That peak, now home to an Israeli intelligence complex, is the highest and most strategic point on the Golan plateau.

Israeli military intelligence assessments are cautiously confident thus far that the Syrian moves are "largely defensive" in character, according to one official, and US Ambassador Martin Indyk used the same term in a public statement on Wednesday.

"There is one problem, though," the Israeli official said, "because some elements of the new deployment there can be used in due time for offensive purposes. These units are commando units, and they can use them very easily against targets like our positions on the Hermon, as they did in the (1973) Yom Kippur war."

One sign of Israel's anxiety is a week-long string of public statements in which Netanyahu and his ministers have sought to persuade listeners at home and in Syria that there is no reason to fear an outbreak of fighting.

Israel's military censor has prevented local news organizations from disclosing all they know about the Syrian deployments, and the consequent vagueness of newspaper and broadcast reports has contributed to the discomfort of some Israelis. Commenting on a Monday night broadcast in which Foreign Minister David Levy said "there is no need to panic or be in panic" about the Syrian moves, columnist Yosef Lapid wrote in the Maariv newspaper, "If we needn't be alarmed, what are we being reassured about?"

Syrian fears are equally manifest in that country's official government press, which has been filled with warnings in recent days that Netanyahu plans an attack on Syrian forces.

Until about a week ago, the Israeli premier appeared to be fostering that concern deliberately, by way of pressing his proposal that Israel and Syria should negotiate first about ending their proxy war in Lebanon rather than immediately resuming talks toward an exchange of the Golan territory for a peace treaty.

In a visit Aug. 19 to the Israeli-occupied portion of southern Lebanon, Netanyahu seemed to include Syria in a list of adversaries who would suffer "painful" reprisals if Hezbollah again launches Katyusha rockets into northern Israel.

"Therefore we suggested to Syria, the Lebanese government and the Hezbollah that we find a way to resolve this conflict," Netanyahu said, in a threat later reiterated by anonymous officials. "If it is not found, we will only enter an escalation, one that will certainly be painful to the other side."

Syrian rhetoric has likewise taken on a harshness in recent weeks that is unprecedented since President Hafez Assad declared he had made the "strategic choice" to seek peace with Israel.

Gen. Hikmat Shehadi, the Syrian chief of staff, told the government newspaper al-Baath on Aug. 1 that Syria still had other choices, and Syrian newspapers have compared Netanyahu to Hitler.

Back to school

More than 1,400,000 pupils will start school this Saturday. There are 4224 schools in the Kingdom. About 120,000 of these pupils will attend the first grade for the first time. There could be a shortage in teachers this year because of the number of teachers that are "lent" by the Ministry of Education to the Gulf countries. These include Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. About 1500 teachers are lent to Saudi Ara-

bia alone. All measures are taken by the ministry to ensure that there won't be any teacher shortages in the country. The number of teachers that exist in the country is more than 48,000.

University education

The public universities have accepted more than 11,000 students for the 1996/97 academic year. These include the obligatory 10 percent of Arab

King, government work

Continued from page 1

Last week, Mr. Kabarti unveiled a number of economic initiatives designed to stimulate the participation of the private sector.

The alternative for the government's recent procedures, as officials believe, is the devaluation of the dinar, the decrease of foodstuff commodities and medicine from the local market. In addition, there will be insufficient amounts of hard currency to cover the Jordanian imports. Consequently, the whole coun-

try will be under threat. There should be a unified stance to avoid the previously mentioned problems even if this will reduce the popularity of the government and people's trust to it.

But in spite of the government's seemingly strong position, it will still have to deal with a growing opposition bloc and a hostile Parliament. Observers believe the opposition was able to exploit the riots in the south to its favor. The opposition camp is growing, and recently new elements have joined it including, centrist

heavy weight deputies, who found themselves being underestimated by the government, like Former prime minister Taher Al Masri, Abdel Raouf Al Rawabdeh and Samir Habashneh.

Deputy Abdullah Akhu Ershaidah warned that the deputies may back a vote of no confidence motion against the government in the next ordinary session. Deputy Toujan Faisal said the dispute with the government is a waste of time and any dialogue is becoming useless.

Some believe the confrontation is taking the shape of a personal fight, focusing on the character of Mr. Kabarti. He is accused of patronizing the deputies, of being arrogant and of being an anti-democrat.

Added to this is the fact that Mr. Kabarti is to defend the crisis within his cabinet. Leftist Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Mustafa Shneikat, expressed his opposition to recent government policies. The Unionist Democratic Party (UDP), of which Shneikat is a leading member, has rejoined the opposition ranks and the party's Secretary General, Issa Mdanat, is a strong government critic.

Charles and Di divorce is not yet the end of the story

Continued from page 1

risma to maintain the high public profile she needs to have and to feel that she has not been ditched and eclipsed by the royal family.

The couple that made a mess of their 15-year marriage will now have to salvage the divorce, if not for the sake of the children, Prince William and Prince Harry, then for the sake of the monarchy, which has been battered by years of royal marriage scandal.

In the buildup to Divorce Day, the royals appeared to pull out all stops to placate a public growing increasingly disenchanted with the Windsors.

Earlier this month, it was revealed senior members of the royal family, including Queen Elizabeth II, were discussing the development of the monarchy.

Among the proposals that were floated were streamlining the royal family, allowing heirs

to the throne to marry Catholics, ending the monarch's role as head of the Church of England, and scrapping public financing of the royals.

But the media remains focused on the royal soap opera.

Charles, faces the "Camilla Problem," as the tabloid newspapers and public begin to turn their attention to his mistress, who has apparently been the object of his affections since 1970.

The News of the World landed the first scoop Sunday by publishing the first "intimate" photographs of the couple in 20 years. Parker Bowles was photographed with a friend walking some five paces behind Charles, but the fuzzy picture was enough to ignite a media furor.

"Bed her... don't wed her," thundered The Sun of London Tuesday, trumpeting the results of a phone-in poll that claimed

85 percent of the callers were against Charles remarrying to Parker Bowles.

"Our poll is powerful evidence that perhaps Charles should make it clear he will never wed Camilla Parker Bowles," the paper said in an editorial.

The Sunday Telegraph claimed senior clergy in the Church of England had "strong misgivings, bordering on hostility," to Charles' remarrying.

"Right now, remarrying would be a complete disaster for him," Evans says. "It would

show he is out of touch with the public mood. The irony is that Camilla has been the perfect courtier. She is very discreet. She has stayed in the background. That's what the royal family likes. She is the exact opposite of Diana."

Diana, who lost her title as "Her Royal Highness," remains a royal headache for her soon-to-be former in-laws.

She is the mother to an heir to the British throne. She is rich. And after the divorce, she will again be single.

"What is going to be difficult for her in the future, is as the most famous woman in the world, she is under a lot of pressure and scrutiny," Evans says. "It will be difficult for her to form personal relationships with people. Everyone wants her story."

USAir competes for air routes

USAIR APPLIED to serve London's Heathrow Airport from Boston/Charlotte/Philadelphia and Pittsburgh citing the need for competition in the important US-UK market to the proposed Mega-alliance between British Airways and American Airlines. In a filing with the department of transportation USAir said it is uniquely suited because of its route network to give consumers an effective choice on schedules prices and levels of service between almost 200 US cities and the UK.

"These routes will ensure the level of competition that consumers need," said Stephen M. Wolf, chairman and CEO of USAir. "They also will cement USAir's positions as a significant presence in the transatlantic marketplace, helping the communities we serve to build the jobs and economic growth that flow from international commerce."

USAir would provide the only US-flag competition in each of the four cities that would be provided by the proposed alliance between British Airways and American Airlines, which otherwise would have total dominance in these markets.

A vast majority of US-UK air traffic is from or to the eastern United States, where USAir noted that it is the pre-eminent carrier and the only US airline that can redress the looming imbalance in competition presented by the proposed BA-AA alliance.

"London's Heathrow airport is the fulcrum for international air travel to and from the United States via Europe and for US-UK travel. We are uniquely positioned to play a major role in enhancing this service," Wolf said.

USAir currently services Frankfurt, Madrid, Munich, Paris and Rome from Philadelphia and Frankfurt from Pittsburgh and Boston.

USAir is the leading carrier at all four airports from which service is being sought and has an extensive network of feeder flights at all four cities markedly expanding the reach of each international gateway city.

In its filing with the department of transportation USAir strongly supported the US government's efforts to secure an "open skies" agreement with the United Kingdom.

"A meaningful 'open skies' agreement, however, required a competitive market structure in which USAir and other US airlines can compete from their hub cities to London's Heathrow Airport," USAir said. "For that to occur, the two governments must also take necessary steps to ensure the availability of commercially viable operating slots and facilities needed by carriers to implement their new competitive services."

USAir and USAir Express offer almost 5,000 flights daily to almost 200 destinations, including 39 states in the US, Puerto Rico, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, the Bahamas, Bermuda, US, Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Jamaica, St. Martin and Spain.

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Israel told not to panic

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from positions...
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Crown Prince opens fourth scientific week



RAMTHA (Petra)—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Tuesday called for seizing the opportunity of being in a moderate place among the three major superpowers that will dominate the next 50 years which will be the Far East, the United States and Unified Europe.

The Crown Prince said in his opening remarks at the fourth Jordanian Scientific Week under the title "Man and Earth/Human Resources" which is organized by the Higher Council of Science and Technology at the Jordanian University of Science and Technology that such an effort would enable us to avoid marginalization which also can be realized through bridging our Middle Eastern relations with these powers in preparations for entering the world of competition and economic globalization.

He pointed out that such efforts should start by a thorough study of competition factors in order to determine where we stand, what we need, and understand how to achieve the desired level of progress others enjoy.

He added that the forthright critical and important stage makes it imperative that sound and studied bases characterized by comprehensive vision require an analytical and revision pause, forecasting future needs, and deep understanding of current international political, social, and economic affairs in addition to an understanding of our needs, capabilities and objectives necessary to make quantitative leaps needed for us to integrate into the 21st century.

The Crown Prince noted that the fourth Jordanian Scientific Week is designed to push the development process forward with confidence in order to utilize accurate scientific data on two major themes which are two of the dearest to our man and earth.

He added that utilizing resources, maintaining it in a sound and durable environment based on geographical and technological data systems, and being aware of the geological, geophysical, structural, and geotechnical aspects are in the core of our future strategies needed for comprehensive and durable development.

Prince Hassan pointed out that traditional production elements of resources, capital and technology, labour, and administration will no longer be the competitive weapon in the 21st century, and that they will be preceded by the skills of negotiating diplomacy, creative labour force, quantitative education, effective use of telecommunications and operational technologies.

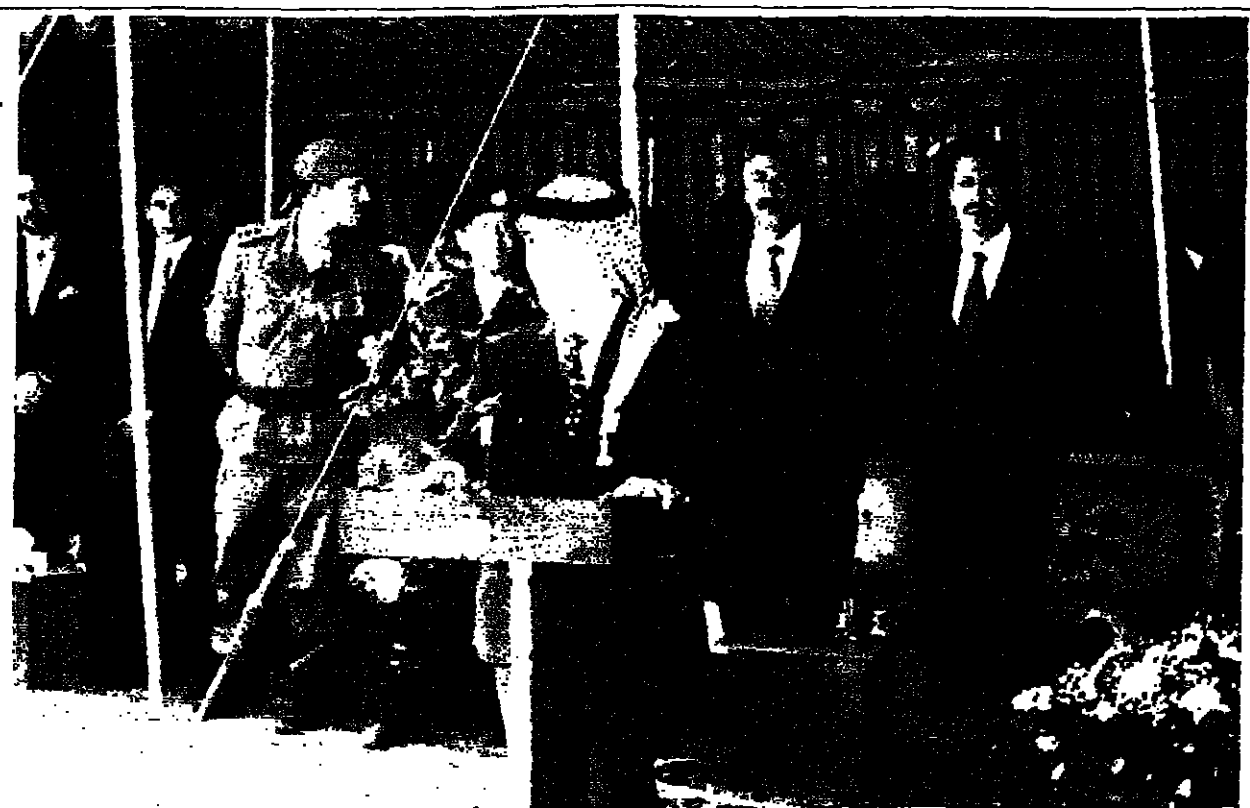
He asserted that the third world problem is in productivity and that its solutions is in further investments, development of skills, applying better strategies that would provide better and competitive produce in accordance with quality standards in addition to decreasing consumption, increasing savings and adopting taxation systems that would enhance such approaches.

The Crown Prince indicated that the crucial issue resulting from studies and research state that productivity is linked to improving the educational system which can be realized through investment in providing skills continued training, upgrading vocational skills, industrial training, and proficient administration. He affirmed that necessary measures of minor burdens is far more better than not applying such measures that would entail heavier burdens in the future.

He called upon decision makers to first acknowledge the existing of a problem, understanding its aspects before attempting to resolve it.

His seven-day scientific event is discussing 23 working papers and studies submitted by 58 researchers from the public and private sectors, national and private universities, the armed forces, professional unions, scientific centers and united nations organizations.

The scientific week aims at discussing the possibility of utilizing human and natural resources in water, energy, the environment, and mineral resources fields.



His Majesty King Hussein speaks to the people of Aiy in the Karak Governorate, Tuesday. Greeted by local elders, he pledged to build a state of law. About 3000 people listened to the King who flew to the town by a helicopter. The King said that dialogue must be an instrument in all policy making. "I pray to God to help me serve you and serve the future generations in the remaining years of my life and I hope that dialogue will remain our method to attain what is best for us and to solve our problems," The King added. His Majesty received a sword as a pledge of allegiance by the local tribes.

Hamzeh Mansour of the IAF
"..we see the government as unqualified to continue"

People acted out of frustration, they erupted, lost control and practiced things they themselves do not agree with, but it happened

EDITOR'S NOTE: Deputy Hamzeh Mansour is a prominent figure in the Islamic Action Front (IAF)—the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood—and the spokesman for the Islamic bloc in the Lower House. Mr Mansour says that the government must resign. He talked to The Star's Raed Al Abed about the last riots in the south of the country. Excerpts follow:



Mansour

The government claims that the crisis concerning bread is over. Do you agree? and do you think that the government emerged stronger than before?

The weakness or strength of any prime minister are measured by how strong or weak is the trust of people in him. I believe this government is not strong and does not have a popular feedback, and also it does not have the support of the Lower House.

If the government was sure of its strength, it would not have appealed to His Majesty the King to dissolve the extraordinary session of the Lower House. This government, which used the security forces to prevent the people and political parties from expressing their opinions, and only permitted government supporters to march, this government is not stronger than it was in the past. In fact, it is in its weakest stage.

The IAF and the Muslim Brotherhood were singled out from any criticism during the latest riots in the south. Some believe that such a step was aimed at driving a wedge into the 11-party opposition alliance, which the IAF is leading. How do you see that?

Any attempt to break up the opposition alliance will not pass. The opposition front is still actively coordinating at all levels, we hold periodical

meetings for the general secretaries of the parties, also a new party, Al Ansar, has joined the opposition. The parties are coordinating on two levels, first on the level of the Popular Conference for the Protection of the Homeland and the Confrontation of Normalization, the other is on the level of the National Committee to Defend the People's Living Standards.

Therefore the stands of the opposition alliance are becoming more stronger, common basis and ties within the alliance are becoming more consolidated.

The same applies to opposition deputies. We hold two regular meetings every week because we believe that the House should not be absent from the on going events. The dissolution of the extraordinary session does not mean the dissolution of the duties of the deputies. We [23 opposition deputies] practice our duties as a mini House representing the opposition in the country.

How did you react to His Majesty's praise of the IAF and the Muslim Brotherhood in relation to their role in the latest events?

His Majesty was reviewing history. He was talking about the period from the 1950s to the 1990s. He re-affirmed a historical fact, when he said that the Muslim Brotherhood, and later the IAF, had always been concerned about the security and stability of the country.

Definitely, we are proud of this and we will always adhere to save security and stability of Jordan. But this does not mean to abandon our role. We are in the vanguard position of the national and responsible opposition working for the highest interests of the country.

In addition it is not the first time that His Majesty pointed out to the role of Islamic Action Front. This shows the conviction of the King of the strength and of the popularity of the IAF and the Muslim Brotherhood.

Are you still demanding the resignation of the Kabarti government?

First, we voted against the government of Prime Minister Abdel Karim Al Kabarti in the confidence session. Our no confidence position towards the government is being consolidated by the latest measures of the government which harmed every household in the country, particularly the poor sector. Accordingly, we feel that the presence of Mr Kabarti and his cabinet is a provocation to the Jordanian people. So it is better for the government to defuse the situation.

Because our memo to the King did not talk clearly about this demand—the resignation of Mr Kabarti—some thought that we have altered our position. In fact we did not retreat, and we see the government as unqualified to continue.

The government has accused Iraq and the Jordanian Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party of inciting people in the south to riot. Do you think there were external powers behind the events?

I think that there are some terms that needs to be clarified and modernized. Like the term 'incitement', what does it mean? If 'incitement' means that we are against the policy of increasing the prices of bread and others, I am sure that all Jordanians are accused of incitement, as all Jordanians reject these measures.

But if it [incitement] means calling for the destruction of state and government establishments and clashing with police forces, I do not believe that any national political party would condone such practices.

People acted out of frustration and they erupted and lost control and they practiced things they themselves do not agree with, but it happened. It happens everywhere even in countries where democracy is rooted and advanced. So I doubt there is any external factor behind that.

Sometimes there are some inaccurate and incorrect information raised to the decision maker. I think we need to slow down with Iraq, because our stand with Iraq in the past was based on principles not only interests, such methods should rule this relation.

Therefore I believe political parties are performing under the law and the Constitution. We will strongly confront any hand that tries to break the law.

Those who were arrested after all citizens of this country, and we know that some of them are political activists. So we demand that the government immediately release all prisoners, and we ask it to stop its campaign of arresting people. The authorities violated the immunity of political parties when it allowed itself to raid and inspect the headquarters of the Ba'ath party.

What about the 'hungry million demonstration'? Are you pushing through to do it?

We informed Amman's governor about our plan but he rejected it. We postponed the demonstration, we did not cancel it, because the reasons behind it still exist. We believe it is our right and the people's right to express rejection to the policies of the government using all legal means.

Do you expect a regression in public freedoms or press laws?

If the current government is given the right to review, this definitely means more deterioration in the democratic process.

But if there is a comprehensive review where all Jordanian sectors are represented, in secured conditions, this form of review, we believe will serve democracy and the progress of the country.

Do think the ordinary session will be held on time? And what are you preparing for it?

I hope that it will be held on time, early October. We will continue to practice our legislative role, and to observe the government's performance. If the government is working to defend the interests of the people and Arab and Islamic causes, then it will receive our full support. But any government that turns its back on the interests of the people and the Umma, certainly, does not deserve our support.

Lower House to convene in October, says Al Sroor

By Hamdan Al Hajj
Special to The Star

THE SPEAKER of the Lower House of Parliament Sa'ad Hayel Al Sroor confirmed that the final and fourth ordinary session of the 12 Lower House will be convened next October as stipulated by the Constitution.



Sroor

Delay is not expected, and the last date for the convening of the session is set for 15th of the month. Deputies are determined to hold it on time.

Mr Al Sroor told The Star that the government wants the Lower House to be resumed as an expression of parliamentary democracy. Furthermore it hopes that deputies will return to practice their legislative and supervisory role as stipulated by the Constitution.

But there might be some problems. The Star was informed that the 23 opposition deputies who boycotted the extra-ordinary session, may also stay away from the coming ordinary session. The reasons behind this boycott is still there, members of the opposition argue.

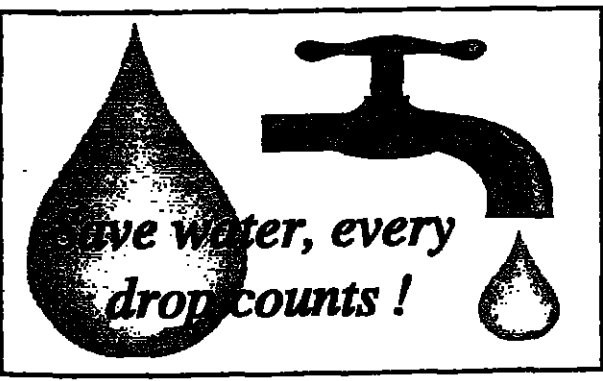
One of the opposition deputies said they are still determined to reverse the government's bread and fodder price hikes. If this does not they will force the government to resign.

Being the last session in the life of this Lower House, the fourth ordinary session, if convened on time, will end next February. The government will then start preparing for the 1997 general election which will be held the following October.

Talk of an extension to the present Parliament is still going on. However this seems to be a weak possibility. The agenda is still full and there are many draft laws awaiting endorsement. Among them is the draft elections law.

The first act of the ordinary session will be the election of a new speaker. Al Sroor is expected to stand for the third time. Abdel Raouf Al Rawabdeh and Samir Habeshneh will also be standing. But it is still too early. The coming month is likely to show that many other deputies will be standing.

However, Mr Al Sroor will be looking at Mr Al-Rawabdeh who is likely to be a tough challenger.



American Muslims active in political process as election nears

Continued from page 1
and run for office.

"There is a clear message being given to Muslim women today," said MWA president, Anisa Abd El Fattah. "When it comes to politics, your vote is our voice."

Dr Mohamed Nimer, director of CAIR, released the first opinion poll dealing specifically and systematically with the opinions of Muslim-Americans concerning a variety of social and political issues.

The survey paints a picture of the average American Muslim as a young, highly educated professional who lives in a middle class, family oriented household. To determine the demographic profile of the sample, the survey asked questions about age, gender, education level, occupation, income, marital status, mosque attendance, voter registration, and party affiliation.

This is the first opinion poll dealing specifically and systematically with a Muslim constituency. The survey offers a profile of the membership of one major Muslim organization in the United States. There are inherent difficulties in measuring American Muslim public opinion. Few databases are available from which to select a random sample of Muslims. Also, some members of the community have in the past shunned politics and public debate. By focusing on a systematically developed membership base, this survey shed some light on where Muslims stand on controversial issues.

The telephone interviews were conducted by an independent polling company, the John Zogby Group International of New Hartford, New York. At least five calls were made to complete an interview at every sampled telephone number. Calls were made, in the period of July 18-22, to

numbers at proper intervals resulting in 259 completed answer sheets. The poll carries a margin-of-sampling error of +/- 6%.

Findings of the survey paint a picture of the average American Muslim as a young, highly educated professional who lives in a middle class, family-oriented household. Contrary to long-held stereotypes, more than half of Muslim women interviewed work outside their homes, mainly in professional careers. Also, 8% of these women own or manage businesses. Less than half of the women work at home.

More Muslims identify with the Democratic party and its constituencies. Still, considering that Muslims are a minority grouping, there is a surprisingly large segment that identify with the Republican party. This finding stands in contrast to how other minority groupings view their party

affiliation. There is an overwhelming majority among Black, Hispanic and Jewish communities who identify with the Democratic party. The Republican party has attracted only small portions of these minority groupings. The comparatively large segment of Muslims identifying with the Republican party is perhaps due to the largely conservative inclinations among Muslims on matters usually described as family-value issues.

Still, the survey shows that there is overwhelming evidence that issues of minority rights and religious tolerance stand out as primary concerns for the respondents. On these issues Muslims find themselves in natural alliance with liberal Americans. But no matter how Muslim leaders draw their alliances, they face the formidable challenge of mobilizing their constituency.

First, we voted against the government of Prime Minister Abdel Karim Al Kabarti in the confidence session. Our no confidence position towards the government is being consolidated by the latest measures of the government which harmed every household in the country, particularly the poor sector. Accordingly, we feel that the presence of Mr Kabarti and his cabinet is a provocation to the Jordanian people. So it is better for the government to defuse the situation.

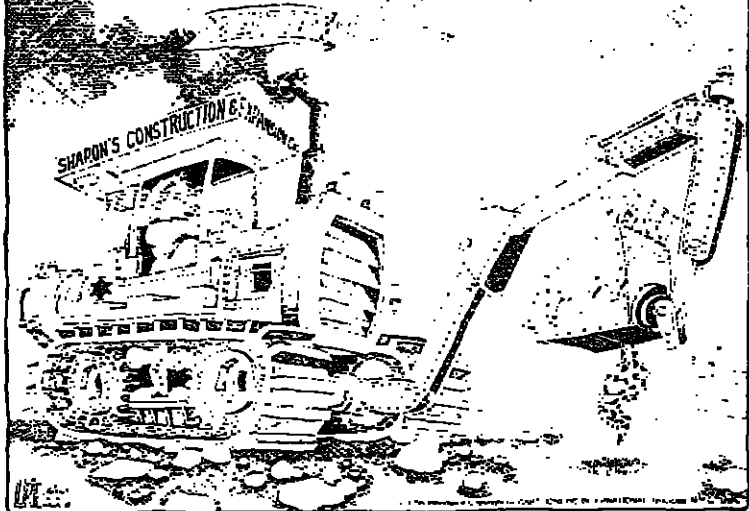
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LURIE'S WORLD



"But of course, Mr. Arafat... I'll be glad to hear your point of view!"

Our Say...

Where is the peace?

WITH THE United States turning its attention to the November presidential elections, hopes for a resumption of the Middle East peace process appear to have been dashed. Add to this the hardline policies of the Likud-led government in Israel, the possible collapse of the Palestinian National Authority and the increasing tension between Israel and Syria—and the region becomes its familiar self again. Gone are the charged emotions and the waves of optimism that accompanied the return of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to Gaza, the signing of bilateral agreements between Israel and the PLO, the secret negotiations between Syria and Israel and the economic prospects that resulted from the Amman Economic Summit.

Today the region appears to have made a full circle and many of us remember too well square one where the whole region has been pinned for many decades. The rhetoric rings a familiar and obnoxious tone: talk of tension on the borders, troop deployments, accusations and counter accusations, the works! And so are the deeds. We have seen them before—before the peace agreements and the handshakes and the ceremonies in the Rose Garden and the media blitz. Again we see demolitions, land confiscations, closures and intimidations.

So where is the peace? The region is living the irony of seeing its history relived day and again. The curse of elusive peace, a just and comprehensive peace, has risen from the ashes just when the world thought that a new leaf has been turned promising a new beginning for the region and its people.

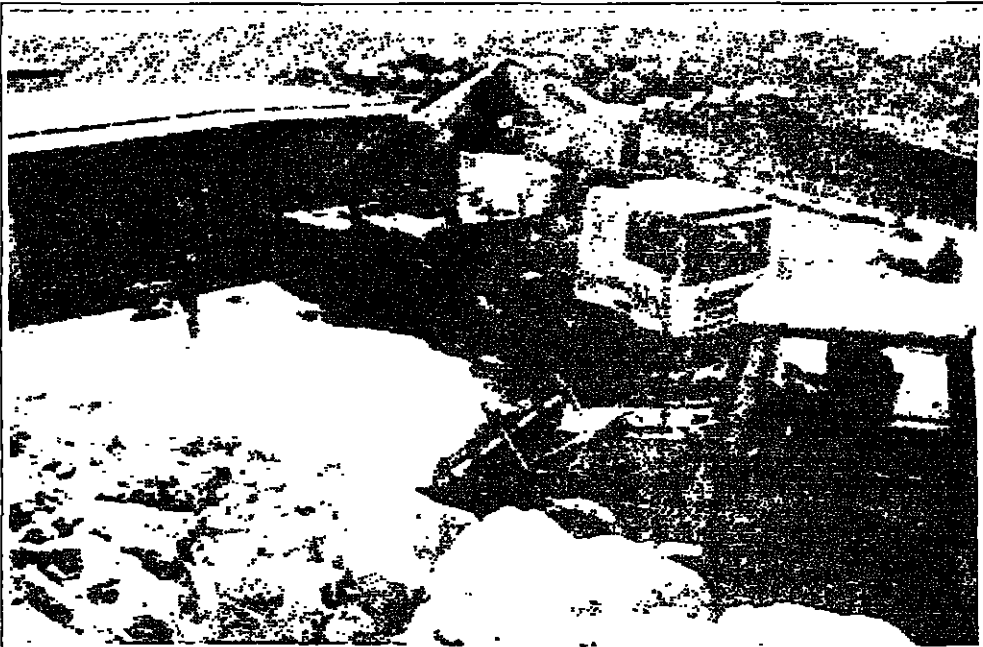
It would be naive to blame this reversal of fortune on one man: Bibi Netanyahu. But it would be a crime not to place the man on the top of our list of culprits. Today the PNA is at an unenviable position, unable to bring pressure on Israel to honor its commitments, while at the same time making a fool of itself by starting on the wrong foot with international allegations of grave violations of human rights, official corruption and mismanagement hurled at it from every side. Not the bright future Palestinians fought and died for.

But while Mr Arafat finds himself hostage to a process on which he placed all his cards, the entire region which joined in the early celebrations of a new Middle East has been embarrassed by the present reality. Mr Netanyahu has turned the mid summer dream into a cold and dreary nightmare. Either way the region is hooked. It cannot retract and it will not move on.

Netanyahu's tough statements on Jerusalem, his now very clear policy on expanding Jewish settlements and partitioning what remains of Palestinian territory so that no entity will ever emerge, all this bodes ill for a region that only few months ago thought it was finally emancipated.

The specter of war again looms large on the region and the few promising and enchanting moments of jubilation that we and the whole world lived through in the past few years have now been erased.

Today the enemies of peace have the upper hand—a far fetched reality from the one we had only few months ago. ■



● Expanding Settlements! Paving the way for a new caravan site on the West Bank. The Israeli government approved last week the construction of 900 units just outside Arab East Jerusalem.

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Publisher & Editor-in-Chief

Osama El-Sherif

Managing Editor

Dr Marwan Al Asmar

Editorial Team

Raed Al Abed (Home News Editor), Olivier Bras (French Editor),

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Dominance, cultural context and Indonesian politics

...change in Indonesia would probably not come without more violence. The cultural assertion came only after public opposition to the President's governance has crystallized: that must play itself out.

By MGG Pillai
Star Asia correspondent

KUALA LUMPUR—Mark Twain's aphorism—that no army on earth can stop an idea whose time has come—comes true in Indonesia. The "idea" is that after 30 years of power, 25 of which as elected leader, President Suharto must make way for a new leader. It is a repeat of what happened after the attempted pro-communist coup in 1965, when subtle pressures on President Sukarno to retire failed, and in the aggravating and violent anti-communist backlash, more than a million people were reportedly killed, society turned upside down, the effects of which still overshadowing the state. The murder of six generals, whose bodies were dumped in a Lubang Buaya (crocodile hole) and the consequent rise to power of General Suharto, paid for 20 years of post-independence governance of its first president.

A sense of déjà vu strikes one who was around at the earlier confrontation, as I was. The accusations against President Sukarno then, and with slight modification, President Suharto are familiar: corruption, misuse of power, enrichment by associates and family members. One accusation then, though not now, was the dominant role of the Partai Komunis Indonesia (PKI Communist Party of Indonesia), but the presidential family's domi-

nance in the country's economic affairs is new.

The idea crystallized unexpectedly. The armed forces, ABRI, expecting pressure from Islamic groups, constrained them. But Islamic groups would not openly challenge the president, but only want to succeed him. ABRI presumed their candidate would be the Technology Minister, Prof. Habibie, whose push for high technology in Indonesia and his closeness to Indonesian Muslim intellectuals gave him a high profile, was later restrained.

The President's unopposed re-election was all but assured —if he had some reservations after his wife died in April that seems to have gone now—when, to the surprise of everyone, Megawati Sukarnoputri arrived on the scene.

ABRI attempted to force the Partai Demokratik Indonesia (PDI), her father's old party, to elect a leader amenable to its interests. Dissidents gathered around her, proclaimed her leader and the PDI candidate for president. Unexpected though that was, ABRI was even more shocked and surprised by the outpouring of support for her. And the more pressure ABRI put on her, the more concentrated her support.

And not just in Jakarta. The bloody riots in Jakarta on 27 July broke out when ABRI broke into her headquarters. Riots of this scale has not been seen in Jakarta since the

Malari riots of 1974 amidst the official visit to Indonesia of the then Japanese prime minister Mr Kakeul Tanaka.

Within the Malay (and Indonesian) cultural perception, the leadership is never challenged: once it is, the incumbent withdraws gracefully or is thrown out. That more than any other factor, crystallized the unrestrained official pressure on Megawati Sukarnoputri and her faction of the PDI. ABRI cannot withdraw now without losing face. The recent riots in Jakarta and elsewhere are reminiscent of similar happenings in 1965. There has been an outbreak of rioting throughout Indonesia in the past year, with those in Jakarta knowing of them only when newspapers report bland announcements that "the situation has returned to normal in Medan" or wherever.

Everything else is secondary. It is now a matter of time before President Suharto withdraws or, unthinkable to many, is forced out. Talk of who next is secondary. Given the conditions extant to Indonesia, he would be Javanese, the dominant racial group, as was his two predecessors. More likely, he would also be a general: whether he would be the Suharto favourite retired Defence Minister Try Sutrisno, or his brother-in-law, the present ABRI chief, General Faisal Tanjung, or someone else is too early to say. No one has given much of a chance in 1966, that President Suharto

would lead, but then the six likely to lead were butchered. But this change when it takes place can only come within the cultural ambit, even if that can be dressed up in a Western political framework.

ABRI would remain in control: their dominance of the body politic is constrained within this cultural overview, by their outreach into every nook and cranny of the Indonesian administrative military and political structure. That will hold, even if it had to give up some of that control to retain it. It is a mistake to ignore this aspect of ABRI's dominance in Indonesian society. The presidential conundrum would not dent its control and its role has been in keeping law and order, is careful not to be seen to be involved in the internal political machinations.

But change in Indonesia would probably not come without more violence. The cultural assertion came only after public opposition to the President's governance has crystallized: that must play itself out. ABRI's actions to force the genie back into the bottle came as foreign investors watched events with growing concern. Western investors had viewed events in Indonesia with growing alarm for more than a year, but the Japanese did not. But even the Japanese are now worried, and that is when ABRI sprung into action. It may have entered the fray a little too late. ■

New developments in Turkey demand crucial diplomacy

By Carrie Nelle Moye
Star US correspondent

THE NEW Prime Minister of Turkey, Necmettin Erbakan of the Welfare party, has proven to be a big surprise, emerging as one of the most astute politicians and strategists in the 1990s. Presently under Erbakan, to whom most of the West including the United States, opposed, Turkey has taken a turn towards a new kind of prominence. This is of great significance to the United States, other Western countries in the region and even the newly independent Eastern European (mostly Muslim) states that were part of the former Soviet Union.

One must examine the recent political history of Turkey. Prior to attaining his position, Erbakan was considered by most of the western elite in Turkey and by a majority of the western countries as unsuitable to hold the reins of the "secular republic" seeking to join the European Union. Until recently, this Islamic leader was derided by both the Turkish elites and the military as unfit to govern because of his Islamic dedication and seemingly aversion towards "westernizing" Turkey.

The inability of the westernized secular factions like Tansu Ciller's Motherland and Mesut Yilmaz's Straight Road parties to form a viable coalition forced the Turkish President, Süleyman Demirel, to charge Erbakan to form a government.

Ms Ciller was Prime Minister when the recent elections were held but her Motherland finished third. Yilmaz succeeded her as PM in a fragile coalition, with Ciller's holding the post as his Deputy and Foreign Minister. To the dismay of secularists and military, the coalition collapsed in less than two months.

Turkey was the first country to respond to President Bush's (and subsequently the UN's) request to impose sanctions against Iraq in August 1990 after its invasion of Kuwait. Turkey closed Iraq's vital pipelines pumping oil to the Mediterranean and stopped all trade with Iraq, at a staggering loss for Turkey itself, amounting to an estimated \$3.4 billion a year.

After joining the Western (US) strategy of isolation, Turkey placed tremendous pressure on Syria, under Ozal,

The remaining options were to have Erbakan form a government or hold new elections, but secularists and military feared that this would have given Erbakan's Welfare an absolute Parliamentary majority, enabling him to pass any legislation in conformity with his Islamic ideology. Considering this to be the greater evil, Ciller and Yilmaz turned to Erbakan to form a government: he succeeded, with the result being the present Turkish regime, with Ciller now being the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister. If this coalition holds, then Turkey will have succeeded in having a stable government for the first time since the political defeat in 1991 of Turgut Ozal, a staunch secularist and friend of America.

Important? Yes. Turkey holds a strategic and economic position between the Middle East, Europe and Asia. Since the late 1940s, Turkey has been a crucial US ally, providing military and intelligence bases to confront the Soviet Union and its Communist allies. Turkey was and is a cornerstone in the global strategic planning of NATO. It played a crucial role in Desert Storm and continues to provide US basestops monitor northern Iraq.

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Erbakan

Demirel, Ciller and Yilmaz. The promised compensation from the West for the Turks' losses never materialized. Under subsequent mounting economic hardships there was a growing enmity with all neighbors (Iran, Iraq, Armenia, Russia, Azerbaijan, Greece, Bulgaria, Cyprus and Syria) because of Turkey's extremely pro-Western attitude. The largest segment of its conservative Muslim population became increasingly disappointed and angered at the secular parties governing Turkey, until the advent of Erbakan.

Additional to these problems were the Kurdish insurgency in the southeastern part of the country, plus a soaring inflation and rate of unemployment. The final grievance was the military's accord with Israel signed by the Ciller/Yilmaz governments, which a majority of the population considered to be siding against sister Islamic nations, with a country they considered a usurper of Jerusalem, the third holiest city of Islam, and the persecutor of fellow Muslims in Lebanon and Palestine.

Among all this frustration,

the Welfare party elected a plurality of members, with its leader, Erbakan, ultimately assuming power with a simple and popular platform: Restoration of Islamic values without breaking with modernization; reconciliation of differences with neighboring countries in a spirit of goodwill and fraternity; placing Turkey's interests above but not necessarily in lieu of those of the US, Europe and NATO; ending the war with the Kurds on a basis of mutual respect and Islamic tolerance, repatriating the displaced Kurds to their villages and helping them rebuild homes and lives; reinvigorating the economy by creating jobs and increasing base salaries by an average of 50 percent, restoring honor and international respect of Turkey.

Erbakan will no longer have to beg for membership in the European Community, a goal which has been rejected for over 20 years (despite the acceptance of three less strategic but "Christian" countries: Greece, Spain and Portugal, an act that had deeply humiliated the majority of Turks, including the "westernized elite" who continue to consider Turkey a "European democracy" rather than a Levantine Third World country).

Now it will be incumbent upon the US et al. to deal with this traditional strategic ally on a more equal basis (versus master-and-servant). The situation is delicate; the potential is enormous. It will demand astute diplomacy on the part of all Western governments to retain this friend. But if the West is able to do so, chances of true peace in the Middle East will once again emerge and, conceivably, place Israel and its neighbors back on the road for which Yitzhak Rabin gave his life. ■

Moreover, there was a widely held belief that the acid test for the survival of Jordan's democracy would be the overcoming of the consequences of liberalization process by a social structure lacking in the making of civil society.

Yet, Jordan proves again that it will not flinch in the face of the awesome difficulties and will pursue its own chartered path towards the creation of a prosperous modern state. With almost disbelief, the international media have started to wait for the first signs of trouble to appear, with the difference this time being, Jordan is not just a cosmetic facade but rather a real force for change towards the better.

As Jordanians, we must start getting used to the fact that the world is viewing us with a totally new perspective. A perspective which extracts us from the status of dependency and sets us on the path of economic viability and partnership with the world. In other words, all this attention is because the world expects a great deal from our success. ■

Dr Omar Mango, General Engineering Industries, Amman. ■

To The Editor,

IN THE conditions prevailing since the changes in the import customs' structure, started in spring 1994, controversy rages about the unhappy state in which the manufacturing industry in Jordan finds itself. That there is controversy is a healthy sign, but when one examines the quality of the arguments advanced one finds that much left to be desired.

Wizardry with figures and statistics can be used to prove, or disprove, any proposition with apparent elegance but it is intellect of calibre that is desperately needed in order that a sound strategy is adopted.

The terms "reform," "distortions," "protectionism" are but a few of those that are recurring more and more. It appears that

the shoddy international propaganda machine which coined the terms "Islamist," "fundamentalist," "terrorist" etc. is now trying its hand at intellectual intimidation in another field: economics. To keep a clear head, one should first of all not fall into the trap of adopting the "slogans" as a substitute for logic.

The measures adopted by the Jordanian authorities, over the past three decades, were based on supporting local "industry" through a variety of measures, including tariff differentials. The intention, in my view, was correct but the application should have been more sophisticated.

It is quite legitimate for the infant local industry to be assisted through its formative years. This is in fact almost

universal practice but, that being said, parallel considerations must be addressed:

■ Regulations formalising the assistance must include a time programme whereby local industry has to improve its performance on annual basis. The improvement is indicated by the increase in local contribution to the product. South Africa devised such a regulation governing the manufacture of road vehicles, which serves as a good example.

■ Support must be maintained within reasonable limits. Prohibition of import of products which have local parallels leads to lack of improvement and innovation. Examples in Turkey and India, during such periods, abound.

■ Many local industries have a very small local content

and there survival was secured by a large customs differential. The merit of such industries to the community, unless they innovate and diversify, is doubtful. By way of example, reinforcement building bars and cutting of imported book marble stone fall into this category.

Creating real manufacturing with substantial local content and innovation is the most serious route to providing employment and prosperity. Can we succeed? or, put more succinctly, do we understand the nature of the challenge and are we able to devise the suitable strategy?

Dr Omar Mango, General Engineering Industries, Amman. ■

Middle East Beat

by Khairi Janbek

International media

THE RECENT riots in the south of Jordan have attracted plenty of international media attention. As a consequence it created a great deal of dismay and disappointment in the country for fear of projecting a negative image to the potential investors and tourists who come with the understanding that our country is a haven of stability.

Of course such Jordanian fears are justified and keeping Jordan's reputation, both regionally and internationally, is an important task. But what is it that attracted the world media's attention on us at a time when Australia was suffering more violence and civic disorder, Korea assessing students by the hundreds, and the Palestine National Authority struggling with human rights abuse?

Does Jordan warrant all this attention at its hour of discontent. The answer is yes. The way Jordan is currently viewed, and will be viewed in the future has changed radically and faster than we realized. Clearly, the world, or at least the international media, does not see Jordan as merely just another Arab country.

Democratization, and political freedom have broken the old rules saturated usually with the comforts of the despotic orient and the inability of an Islamic country to evolve democratic practices.

From that point of view, Jordan fell under the international microscope, with cynical bets placed on the failure of its democratic process. When peace with Israel was signed, it was becoming apparent that Jordan is determined to give itself the chance of changing track from the path of war to that of regional cooperation.

A marked change of attitude in the international media perspectives had started to occur, and Jordan's historic decision of opting for peace, became the first reference point for an Islamic country. Therefore, the pressure continued to be exerted and every move Jordan took was analyzed and scrutinized mercilessly.

The path Jordan chose for itself has caused more confusion in the world press, than any other country in the region had done for a very long time. The "a priori" principles held were all shattered and the exclusive status of the Jewish state being the only paradigm of democracy in the region was lost. Despite the distinct admiration for Jordan and evolution of its state structures, there still remained a cultural bias that Jordan could only reach the stage of political and economic only if it maintains to a heavily subsidized program.

Moreover, there was a widely held belief that the acid test for the survival of Jordan's democracy would be the overcoming of the consequences of liberalization process by a social structure lacking in the making of civil society.

Yet, Jordan proves again that it will not flinch in the face of the awesome difficulties and will pursue its own chartered path towards the creation of a prosperous modern state. With almost disbelief, the international media have started to wait for the first signs of trouble to appear, with the difference this time being, Jordan is not just a cosmetic facade but rather a real force for change towards the better.

As Jordanians, we must start getting used to the fact that the world is viewing us with a totally new perspective. A perspective which extracts us from the status of dependency and sets us on the path of economic viability and partnership with the world. In other words, all this attention is because the world expects a great deal from our success. ■

Foreign Exchange	
US\$	1.00
UK£	0.75
FRF	6.55
DM	3.36
ITL	2036
YEN	166.64
JPY	166.64
SGD	1.36
AUD	1.48
NZD	1.35
HKD	7.80
INR	47.54
PKR	100.00
BDT	100.00
THB	50.00
MYR	3.76
PHP	50.00
VND	2000.00
IDR	1000.00
SGD	1.36
AUD	1.48
NZD	1.35
HKD	7.80
INR	47.54
PKR	100.00
BDT	100.00
THB	50.00
MYR	3.76
PHP	50.00
VND	2000.00
IDR	1000.00

JORDANIAN STOCKS	
Amman	100.00
Jerusalem	100.00
Haifa	100.00
Tel Aviv	100.00
Berlin	100.00
Paris	100.00
London	100.00
New York	100.00
Stockholm	100.00
Copenhagen	100.00
Helsinki	100.00
Tallinn	100.00
Riga	100.00
Vilnius	100.00
Kyiv	100.00
Moscow	100.00
Beijing	100.00
Tokyo	100.00
Seoul	100.00
Manila	100.00
Bangkok	100.00
Colombo	100.00
Calcutta	100.00
Rangoon	100.00
Yokohama	100.00
Osaka	100.00
Kobe	100.00
Fukuoka	100.00
Sapporo	100.00
Hiroshima	100.00
Nagasaki	100.00
Sendai	100.00
Yokohama	100.00
Osaka	100.00
Kobe	100.00
Fukuoka	100.00
Sapporo	100.00
Hiroshima	100.00
Nagasaki	100.00
Sendai	100.00

Middle East by Khairi Jank

International media

THE RECENT visit of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) to the south of Jordan attracted plenty of international media. As a consequence, a great deal of attention was focused on the country's economic situation. The visit was the first time in the country's history that so many international media representatives had gathered in Amman. The visit was also the first time that the AFM had been visited by so many international media representatives. The visit was also the first time that the AFM had been visited by so many international media representatives.

Business scene

Total foreign assets at the Central Bank and the authorized banks, by the end of the first half of this year, are more than JD 4 billion. Foreign assets at the Central Bank are estimated at more than JD 2,266 billion. Foreign currencies are at JD 1.3 billion and gold assets at JD 139 million. There are also foreign assets at JD 866.3 million in the form of external debts, and there are JD 2.6 million as special drawing rights. Foreign assets at the authorized banks, by the end of the first half of this year, reached JD 1.8 billion covering deposits in external banks at JD 1.5 billion and other assets at JD 285.9 million. Foreign liabilities reached JD 2.1 billion out of which are JD 55 million in foreign debts of the Central Bank and JD 114.2 million in liabilities of other authorized banks. So, total assets in the banking sector are JD 1.9 billion.

Total loans and facilities granted by the Housing Bank over the first half of this year reached JD 113 million. These loans financed housing and development projects in the Kingdom. The balance of loans and credit facilities at the Bank by the end of last June was JD 620.4 million.

The Bank's total assets rose by JD 45 million (4%) to reach JD 1149 million. The balance of deposits at the Housing Bank went up from JD 885.7 million last year to JD 927.4 million by the end of June. This is a rise of JD 41.7 million (4.7%), liquidated assets (cash money, or deposits at banks or bonds) both were rated at 33.6% of the total assets, compared with 32.7% by the end of 1995.

The government is to sell its 49.5% share in the Cement Factories Co to 14 international companies. This is in line with the policy of privatization, the Finance Minister Marwan Awadh said.

Among those companies are the Swedish Hold Bank Company (which is the most reputable Cement Company in the world) and the French Lavarge Co, which is the second largest.

Foreign Exchange

Wednesday, 28 AUGUST 1996

	Buy JD	Sell JD
US\$	0.7080	0.7100
£	1.1017	1.1072
DM	0.4789	0.4813
FF	0.5939	0.5969
¥	0.1401	0.1408
₹	0.6573	0.6606
₦	0.4274	0.4295
₧	0.0468	0.0471

New social and economic reforms will lead to prosperity, says PM

AMMAN (Star)—In its policy to activate the national economy and achieve social security, the government is moving for a higher economic profile. Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti announced a series of measures that are seen as a mechanism towards achieving the government's goals.

Meeting with businessmen and industrialists at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Kabariti stated that the government's new legislation are targeted at increasing agricultural exports of the Kingdom, providing finance for small scale projects and providing more social service for the poor and neglected districts.

Since its formation, the Kabariti government has followed in the steps of the former government towards the structural reform program and to giving priority to the citizens and the country's welfare.

Mr Kabariti was quoted saying "we are going through a hard transitional stage on the

economic and social levels, we should realize that we have to co-operate and unite against stressful challenges."

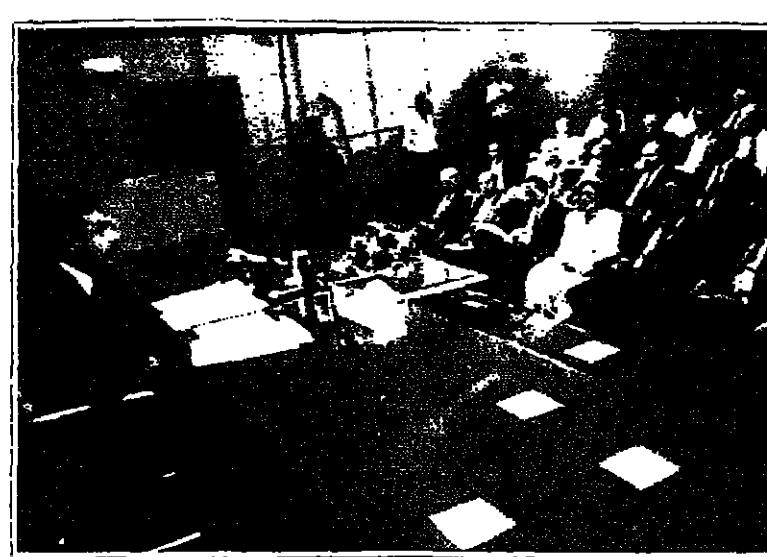
"The picture is distorted in our society, there is a wide gap between the passive citizens who benefit from services more than those who actually need more. Although we suffer from social and economic distortions, there are still people who protest against the attempts to fight corruption and prevent wastage and smuggling," Kabariti said.

He pointed out to the government's comprehensive program to put an end to the problems of poverty and unemployment. The mechanism of this program covers providing social services at the lowest expense and expanding health insurance to all citizens in the country.

The programme also aims to develop the infrastructure in poor areas through large projects for roads, water, schools, and clinics. As for the economic sector, the government

seeks to invest in the capacities of the private sector to improve productivity. Privatization requires new legislation and amendments of the existing rules in order to increase productivity and skills of workers.

A new plan called "the green lane" is to become effective next month. Mr Kabariti pointed out. This gives more confidence to Jordanian exporters as it calls for free inspection of imported commodities. The customs authority will announce the list of accredited universal companies at the country of origin. These companies are responsible for checking the goods at the country of origin, and giving a certificate on these goods being transported to Jordan.



Kabariti speaking to businessmen

The Customs Dept., without inspection, accredits this certificate even without survey. It depends on the invoices supplied by the importer when clearing the cargo and getting the customs fees.

Mr Kabariti pointed to the reductions of 492 capital commodities to strengthen productivity. This plan, as Kabariti notes, gives incentives for investments and Jordanian exporters and removes obstacles facing free trade.

Other scheduled issues on the government reform programme cover the laws of competition and preventing manipulation, the protection of the national economy, the securities new regulations at the AFM and the joint investment funds law that aims at gathering small savings to be utilized

in activating various economic and financial services.

The government hails the agricultural sector. The Prime Minister stated that this sector has a significant role in achieving food security and providing the country with hard currency. "Agreements were signed with the European Union to promote more than 82 tax-free Jordanian agricultural commodities," Mr Kabariti said.

The government plans to establish a company for agricultural marketing and putting forward a developed scheme to finance farmers to expand their investment in this sector and rise the quality of their output.

The businessmen who attended the meeting were satisfied with the Prime Minister's proposals and plans and hoped that such would lead to improving the lot of citizens in the country.

\$7 million Japanese donation to Jordan

THE JAPANESE Foreign Minister, Mr Ichiro Ikeda has recently arrived in Jordan on a two-day visit, during which he held talks with His Majesty King Hussein and HRH Crown Prince Hassan and other senior officials. The two sides exchanged views on bilateral relations and economic cooperation.

A memo was signed between Jordanian and Japanese officials according to which Japan grants Jordan \$7 million to finance the project of rebuilding the Sheikh Hussein Bridge and improving the roads leading to it.

The volume of Japanese aid to Jordan until last year reached \$340 million, \$215 million of which will be to support the balance of payment and \$100 million for the Ajlun thermal electric power station.



Ikeda

IMF gives Jordan top marks for its reform program

AMMAN (Star)—After reviewing the performance of the national economy in Jordan within the framework of the expanded economic structural program (1996-1998), the International Monetary Fund gave Jordan top marks for its policy in carrying out this programme. Finance Minister Marwan Awadh said.

A statement issued by the Fund's Executive Council, showed that Jordan was able to achieve a high economic growth rate of 6.4 percent. This is coupled with a low inflation level.

Moreover, the Kingdom's reserve of foreign currency also recorded a noticeable increase. Thus, there are more job opportunities and the standard of living is improving. The poor who are mainly influenced by progress of economic

reform will be socially secure. The concerned Jordanian authorities are adopting coherent financial and monetary policies in order to preserve the stability of the Jordanian dinar against other foreign currencies, the statement added.

Jordan is able now to draw immediately \$60 million of the credit facilities granted by the Fund.

However, the sharp increase in the previously subsidized foodstuff commodities and the delay in carrying out the procedures to restructure the system of subsidy have led to a higher public spending, more than it was allocated for. This caused a rise in the deficit of the national budget for 1996.

The IMF had previously agreed to grant Jordan \$35 million in credit facilities. The donor countries have

also promised to provide Jordan with \$600 million to finance its economic adjustment programme over 1996.

The European Union also agreed to grant Jordan \$130 million to resume its reforms in regard to the economic adjustment programme. Mr Awadh added.

Moreover, the IMF is studying the possibility of increasing facilities to Jordan for the year 1997. This is supported by the United States, Japan, Belgium, Indonesia, Mexico and Saudi Arabia.

Official sources said that the government will begin negotiations with Belgium, Italy, Germany and Canada on debt swaps to convert \$505 million of Jordan's debts to investments. This is to begin by the end of the year.

Financial market witnesses 2% increase

AS TEMPERERS cooled after the recent bread riots in the south of the kingdom, trading on the Amman Financial Market remained stable despite recording a slight fall.

The official price index fell by 0.6 points from the previous week's level to close at 139.54 points and then at 139 points.

Total dealings in the organized and parallel markets amounted to JD 2.6 million. Between now and then, the AFM was able to record remarkable gains being attracted by the low values of some shares and the non-Jordanian investments portfolios.

The share of the Arab Investment Corp., (which is considered one of the strongest on the AFM) fell to \$70 fils and remained at that price. The share price of the Amman Investment Bank remained stable at 250 fils awaiting the final decision about its future. It is not yet known whether it will be sold to the Arab Bank. Transactions of the latter counted for 20 percent of total dealings.

The "golden group" of the week was the Al Kawthar Investment Co. Its stock rose by 13 percent compared with its previous closing value. The Jordan Electric Power Co recorded the highest level of transactions.

In the first rank of traded shares comes the industrial sector which gained JD 1.28 mil-

lion (49.7 percent), followed by the Bank's sector at JD 0.83 million.

The insurance sector dipped by 0.83 percent and the services sector by 1.66 percent.

The performance of the parallel market is relatively weak as shares of 22 companies are being traded at less than one dinar per share.

This shows that shares trading, although influenced by the bread riots that erupted at the beginning of last week, immediately recovered and were able to stabilize at 139.54 points (a marginal drop if compared to the 140 points previously).

This week, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti announced series of economic measures to activate investments, a step that made the AFM official indicator jump to its highest level since last June to close at 141.31 points.

The share of the Arab Bank recorded a sharp increase of 4.25 points. Its index closed at 176.97 points which is the highest.

The share of the Arab Bank represents one third of the total shares weight.

A noticeable improvement was seen on the shares of the Islamic Bank and the Pharmaceuticals Company.

Contracts of Shares of the Arab Bank and the Jordan Kuwait Bank covered 60 percent of the total traded shares on the organized and the parallel markets.

The process of selling the AIB may be cancelled

AMMAN (Star)—During their special meeting, the 160 shareholders who own stocks at Amman Investment Bank (AIB) called for cancelling the process of selling the bank to the Arab Bank.

The participants formed a follow-up committee and appealed to the Central Bank to study the possibility to resume activity of the Amman Investment Bank through restructuring its capital and preparing a reform programme. They also urged the Central Bank to provide full aid and support for the Bank during the period of its reconstruction and development.

Their contributions represent 73% of

the Bank's paid up capital, which is JD 15 million.

The participants in the meeting called for holding an extraordinary meeting of its board of directors to discuss the bank's position and the issue of restructuring its capital.

The Bank's accumulated losses according to its 1995 balance sheet are estimated at JD nine million. The share price of the AIB at the Amman Financial Market was JD 2.5, two years ago. Today, its share value has dropped to 250 fils.

The Arab Bank wants to buy the AIB and make it operate on Islamic principles.

Business Chronicle

By Mohammad Adawiya

Depth, breadth, resilience

ON AND off again, for the last several weeks, the Amman Financial Market (AFM) has consistently been one of the major news items in the country. Highlighted more for poor rather than bullish conditions, reasons for lack of liquidity to political instability have been put forth as possible causes for the recent weakness. Unfortunately for the market, however, it's more than just liquidity or stability that are missing. It's the fundamental concept of what financial markets are all about.

To a layman, the AFM, like any market, may seem like a complicated financial institution whose daily intricacies are beyond understanding. Moreover, however, he might be led to believe that the recent problems experienced in the market are caused by a series of external factors and that "normal" conditions will prevail in the long run. The unfortunate fact, however, is that, given the fundamental nature of the AFM, these are normal times.

Artificial injections by semi-governmental agencies can only keep the market "afloat" for so long; and that's precisely what has been the case. To better understand this point, it's imperative that one has a better understanding of what a financial market's role is in an economy. Only then can the ineptness and fundamental nature of the problem be appreciated.

At the risk of oversimplification, a financial market is supposed to redistribute the savings of a country. That is to say, in any economy, one will observe economic entities—whether it be households, companies, or governments—who either save more than they spend or spend more than they save. For those who spend more than they save, the financial market serves as a means—supposedly an efficient one—of financing this added expenditure.

This is our first problem. The AFM simply does not represent the savings-investment pattern of the country. As stated earlier, it is over represented by large companies with links to the government and thus dominated by a few, influential groups. Such an environment results in a market which is over sensitive to events due, in part, to the large size of their investments and their unparalleled access to information.

By contrast, if the market were to be represented by a greater number of less wealthy entities, who represent, to a greater extent, the population, the market, though lower in volume, would most likely be less volatile.

Moreover, such an environment would better provide the basic characteristics necessary in any healthy market—depth, breadth, and resilience. Firstly, greater participation in the market can potentially result in a market where there are buyers and sellers that span a wide range of prices. That is to say, it becomes less likely that the market will take a severe downturn as a result of a few companies engaging in "panic selling" because potential investors would be represented at more price levels. Secondly, more participation will result in more buyers and sellers at these given prices as well as hopefully a greater diversity in investors. And lastly, in the event that prices do severely drop, greater participation will ensure a more resilient market where potential investors will enter the market to take advantage of the sharp reduction in prices.

The challenges faced at the AFM in recent weeks are unfortunately not extraordinary in nature. In fact, even should the market rebound in the near future, it is only a matter of time when the next downturn will be. Only with more representative investment decisions, and less disguised governmental intervention, will the AFM become a real emerging market.

Canada offers AFM with development plan

THE CANADIAN Ambassador in Amman, Mr Michel de Sula-berri, stated that his country is willing to provide assistance to improve the performance of the Amman Financial Market. Canada is willing to provide the latest technology to modernize the AFM by offering the market an advanced computer system and to train Jordanian cadres in that respect.

This would be a part of Canada's assistance to Jordan. Through this she hopes that the financial market would be helped to participate in directing the local investments towards industry and more productive sectors and not towards real estate. The ambassador said that the Canadian government is also willing to invite AFM officials to visit the financial markets in that country to get a better picture of the latest technology used. Canada has already had similar projects going in Nablus and the financial markets in the East European countries.

The assistance in the financial area should begin by next year and as soon as the Jordanian government has given its final approval.

The Canadian government has earlier begun an assistance programme for the Queen Alia Fund. A specialized unit was established for training and executing small projects together with financial support. The first phase of this project was completed and procedures are being taken to start the second phase.

Cisneros bottling joins Coca-Cola, the world's soft drink company

CARACAS—The Coca-Cola Company and the Cisneros bottling companies have combined their respective soft drink bottling interests in Venezuela to form a new company. The new company will bottle and sell Coca-Cola and "Hit" trademarked products, in addition to other beverage brands of the Coca-Cola Company. Until now, the Cisneros bottling companies in Venezuela have been market leaders, bottling Pepsi and "Hit" trademarked products.

Under the terms of this agreement, The Coca-Cola Company contributed its bottling interests in Venezuela and other financial considerations to the new venture in return for an economic interest.

Cisneros contributed their bottling business to expand their participation to other neighboring markets. Each group now has a 50 percent economic interest in the new company.

In addition, The Coca-Cola Company has acquired "Hit" and other soft drink brands of the Cisneros bottling

companies.

The transition to production of Coca-Cola products in the 18 bottling plants owned by Cisneros began under the name of Embotelladoras Coca-Cola y Hit de Venezuela.

"We wanted to create further value to our business by entering into an exciting alliance with the number one soft drink company in the world," said Oswaldo Cisneros, chief executive officer of Cisneros bottling companies. "Together, we will undoubtedly become a participant in major expansion in north and South America. We feel this combination provides an unparalleled opportunity to generate future growth and sustained momentum in Venezuela."

For decades, Venezuela has been the only dark spot on the global Coca-Cola map. Today, it has become one of

the brightest," said Mr Douglas Ivester, president, chief operating officer of The Coca-Cola Company. "We are gratified that one of the strongest independent soft drink operators in the world, with a sustained record of market penetration in the country, wanted to be our partner in investing in the future of the soft drink industry in Venezuela. We are also pleased that this transaction takes place at a time when the economic reforms in Venezuela have created an attractive outlook for new investment."

Mr Cisneros' proven managerial talents and leadership will be utilized in the role of chief executive officer of the newly combined bottling company. "The challenge of bringing new growth and energy to the Venezuelan soft drink industry is one I relish," said Mr Cisneros. "I am very

pleased that we can bring about incremental investment for Latin America in general and Venezuela in particular."

"Oswaldo Cisneros and his team have demonstrated their expertise through years of success in Venezuela," said Mr Ivester. "We look forward to working with that team in making Coca-Cola the soft drink leader in Venezuela, as it is in the rest of the world."

"We also look forward to working with the Cisneros organization in building on a great legacy of support for community programs. For more than a century, The Coca-Cola company has supported education, sports, arts and other community programs around the world. We will build upon that history in Venezuela in the years ahead."

"This transaction is a bold move that sees the tone of the determination with which the partners intend to ensure that Venezuela becomes a banner market for Coca-Cola and Hit products," said Oswaldo Cisneros.



MARKET WATCH

Highest and lowest performing stocks in the Amman Financial Market

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jordan Insurance: 5.00 Arab Medical Appliances: 4.69 Kawthar Investment: 2.88 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amman Investment Bank: 4.00 Poultry Slaughter Houses: 3.13 JIMCO: 2.17 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Portfolio: 5.36 Poultry and Livestock: 6.00 Real Estate Inves Alarko: 4.55 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wool Industry: 5.08 National Steel Industry: 4.69 National Commerce Center: 4.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tobacco & Cigarettes: 5.00 National Commerce Center: 5.66 National Multi-Industries: 4.76 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tobacco & Cigarettes: 5.00 Arab Electrical Industries: 4.44 International Trading Center: 4.41 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Int'l Trading Center: 4.62 Industries Commercial: 5.00 Arab Insurance: 4.50 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amman Investment Bank: 4.00 United Engineering: 3.70 Industrial commercial: 3.68

General Price Pointer	139.540	139.270	141.310	141.700
Trade Volume	511697	462696	885902	903623
Stock Volume	381179	385971	483801	251676

Highest Traded Stocks	Arab Bank	Jordan Bank	Kawthar Bank	Poultry and Livestock
	168.720	75.000	275.992	174.235

All data provided by ACCESS Tel: 646868 Fax: 646949

Palestine Post

PNA faces financial collapse

■ The UN special envoy to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Terj Larsen warned of a sharp liquidity crisis in the PNA-controlled areas if urgent action is not taken soon. "The budget deficit is estimated at \$127 million, and there is a need still to finance \$64 million," Larsen added attributing such situation to the closure of the West Bank and Gaza.

The blockade deprived more than 20,000 Palestinians from their jobs (this figure covers only workers in Gaza Strip), Larsen maintained.

"Failing to solve the economic and political problems will certainly lead to political instability. This won't only leave an impact on the PNA but also in Israel and the international community," he added.

On another hand, foreign diplomats were quoted as saying "The PNA will inevitably face a financial collapse, if the blockade of the West Bank and Gaza was not lifted, and if the donor countries fail to supply the PNA with aid as they previously have promised."

New house destroyed by Israeli authorities

■ House demolitions by the Israeli authorities is continuing unabated on the West Bank. The latest casualty is Azia Shehadeh Hatib, who is a widow and her 10 children. They have just joined the homeless queue as the Israeli authorities have destroyed their home earlier this week. The house is in the village of Hizme but falls within the Jerusalem boundaries.

Mrs Hatib is the owner of the land. She did not have a licence to build her home: there is no town planning on her land. Mrs Hatib would need at least \$30,000 to prepare a specific town plan and then to request a building licence according to that plan but it is doubtful if she could ever receive a building licence on her land.

Mrs Hatib and her children over 16 all carry West Bank identity cards given to them on the strength of the address of the house. Therefore, in one and the same place, the land is in Jerusalem for the purposes of the house which will be destroyed, but the people are in the West Bank. They have no permits to be in Jerusalem. They have never received any of the social benefits to which they are entitled as Jerusalem residents.

Mrs Hatib's husband died two and one half years ago. She has had to provide for her family, but no-one has a job and therefore they have no income. Three of her children are spastic. The youngest child is seven and a half, but because of his illness, he looks underaged and is unable to even sit by himself. It is apparent that the family is indigent. The Red Cross will probably provide a tent for the eleven family members.

Members of the Society of St Yves, a Catholic center for human rights have visited the family, who came to the Society for help. The family has been represented by an Israeli lawyer who did his best within the given legal system to help save this home. There is nothing further that the Society can do.

Foreign workers in Israel for the chop!

■ Foreign workers could soon be on the way out in Israel. The Government is seriously studying plans to start expelling 100,000 illegal workers and eventually send up to 100,000 back to their countries. The Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, Eli Yishai, said that at least half of the 200,000 of foreign workers are employed illegally. The minister said that these must be made to leave the country.

Iodized salt for nutrition

■ A one-day symposium on Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, was held in Gaza on 14 August. It calls for undertaking a survey in the West Bank and Gaza to assess the size of the IDD problem and propose solutions.

Iodine is a vital substance that helps normal growth of brain cells in embryos and infants. The lack of it in food intake can handicap the mental development of children. It can also cause other serious health disorders in life. One way to ensure intake of iodine is to add it to table and cooking salt.

Participants in the Gaza meeting called for the formation of a technical committee on IDD and a national committee on Nutrition to address nutrition-related problems and work out remedial plans of action including one to ensure the availability of iodized salt in the West Bank and Gaza.

The symposium, the second on this topic in less than three months and held jointly by UNICEF and the Palestinian National Authority, aimed to promote awareness about IDD, and share experiences with the neighboring countries, including Jordan and Syria.

The West Bank and Gaza do not produce any iodized salt, but count on Israel to supply them with the substance.

"Peace Now" appeals to Netanyahu on redeployment

■ The Peace Now movement urged the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu to take an immediate decision on Israeli troops redeployment in Hebron.

In a message, Peace Now reminded the prime minister of his earlier promises to implement a "Secure Peace" according to Oslo accords.

Israelis now believe that their government is weak, hesitant and under pressure and no more represents the stance of the majority who are seeking an everlasting peace with Palestinians, the movement added.

"Redeployment in Hebron is good for everybody as it ensures peace for all," Peace Now maintained.

PNA denies drawing deposits from Jordanian Banks

■ The chairman of the Palestine Monetary Authority, Fuad Bseiso denied that the PNA had drawn its deposits from Jordanian banks. These deposits were routinely moved in line with Palestinian monetary and investment interests, he said.

The volume of deposits, both in foreign currency and in Jordanian dinar, in Palestinian banks is more than \$29 million in Gaza and more than 1 billion in the West Bank.

Mr Bseiso added that the volume of deposits in Jordanian dinar represents 45 percent in the West Bank and 15 percent in Gaza. Deposits in Gaza account for 34.5 percent of deposits in Palestine, he continued.

Billion dollar from USA to Israel

■ Investors in New York recently signed a \$1 billion dollar loan agreement with Israeli officials, with guarantees from the American Treasury, an Israeli official source said.

This loan is to be repaid in 30 years at an interest rate of 7.1 percent. In 1992, the United States endorsed loans for Israel estimated at \$10 billion for the large Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union. About 700,000 Jews have arrived in Israel since 1989. Total loan warranties being offered from the US to Israel until now reached \$7.6 billion. The Israeli Ministry of Finance aims at benefiting from these warranties to get more than \$1 billion between 1997

Game of hide and seek disrupted as Wizeman seeks to meet Arafat

By Barton Gellman
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM—Israeli President Ezer Weizman, who likes to use his ceremonial post to nudge governments he regards as gone astray, issued an invitation for a well-known Arab neighbor to pay him a call.

It was no coincidence that the man he proposed to entertain, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, has been spurned in every effort thus far to meet Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu or to convince Netanyahu's government to resume suspended talks.

Weizman was letting Netanyahu know he does not approve of the new prime minister's stiff-arm to the Palestinians and his growing impasse with surrounding Arab states. Last year, after a series of bloody terror attacks, Weizman voiced public fears that negotiations with Arafat had moved too fast. After a change of government and three months of deadlock, the man sometimes called Israel's national seismograph reflected anxieties that Netanyahu is allowing momentum toward peace to stall.

Weizman's measurement of public mood drew a reluctant endorsement from Netanyahu himself, who made hasty arrangements to appear alongside the president last Sunday morning and allowed aides to leak hints that Netanyahu, too, might meet with Arafat soon. Asked directly about his plans, Netanyahu would only say that "when I think there will be a purposeful meeting, it will indeed take place."

The government's turnaround, after strong private opposition to the Weizman initiative, followed a skittish week for Israeli diplomacy in which Netanyahu was repeatedly forced to soften confrontations with important partners in the Arab world. It also sharpened public debate on whether the Likud-led government has a viable alternative to the land-for-peace formula that Netanyahu continues to reject.

Most frightening to many Israelis last week were the whispers of war that accompanied a series of military displays between Israel and Syria. Dueling missile tests—a Scud-C ground-to-ground missile in

Syria, and an Israeli test of the Arrow antimissile defense—were scheduled in advance, but they made for an uncomfortably vivid backdrop to the bellicose rhetoric that recently has dominated public exchanges between Jerusalem and Damascus.

Netanyahu attempted to resume negotiations with Syria early this month to ease tension on the Israel-Lebanon border, where Israel occupies what it calls a "security zone" against attacks, but Syria said it was not interested in talking as long as Israel refused to give up land it captured from Arabs—a reference to the Golan Heights.

Then, a week ago, without publicity but in plain view of Israeli intelligence posts on Mount Hermon, Syria transferred a special forces division from Lebanon to the line of confrontation on the Golan Heights.

"You understand that when you move a division into this area you are changing the balance," said an official involved in what became an urgent effort to interpret and defuse the Syrian move. "You put them there and you send a signal because the 1973 (Middle East) war

began with an attack on the Israeli positions on Mount Hermon and their seizure by Syrian special forces."

Netanyahu, along with Foreign Minister David Levy and Lt. Gen. Amnon Shahak, Israel's military chief of staff, felt obliged to reassure Syrian President Hafez Assad—in public statements and urgent messages sent through US and French intermediaries—that the Jewish state has no wish to pick a fight.

Toward the end of the week came a loud complaint from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who had vowed for Netanyahu as a peacemaker, according to Israeli and foreign diplomats, had been telling the Clinton administration he felt deceived by the Israeli leader's unfulfilled promise to carry out an army withdrawal from the West Bank city of Hebron.

In a speech last Thursday, Mubarak threatened to cancel a November economic summit at which Israel is to be a featured participant. Netanyahu placed a telephone call to mollify Mubarak and portrayed the call as a success to Israeli reporters, but the Egyptian leader declined to

withdraw his public threat. The weekend brought an unrelated spat with the other bulwark of Netanyahu's Arab diplomacy, Israeli Agriculture and Environmental Minister Rafael Eitan, a blunt and hawkish former military chief, accused Jordan of violating its 1994 treaty with Israel by agreeing to a Syrian plan for a new dam on the Yarmuk River. Jordan's water minister made a testy rejoinder in an interview with the Jordanian daily newspaper *Dustour*.

Qatar, meanwhile, has suspended plans to build a natural gas pipeline to Israel, and Morocco has frozen discussions of establishing formal relations with the Jewish state. Zvi Bar El, writing in the liberal daily *Haaretz*, accused Netanyahu of "returning Israel to the familiar situation in which it functions best: a small nation surrounded by enemies."

Dore Gold, a senior architect of the Netanyahu foreign policy, said in an interview that critics are rushing to judgment of a new government that has new and different ideas about how to reach peace: negotiating from strength, demanding strict reciprocity and refusing to make concessions in advance of talks.

"The problem of analysis of the Netanyahu government is that there's a process going on that takes a few months," he said. "It's sort of like taking the temperature of a child and you don't wait the full three minutes for the thermometer to rise. You want to know after a minute and a half whether the kid has a fever or not. It's just too soon to judge."

By Palestinian accounts, the patient is sick indeed. They note that Netanyahu is pressing on with Jewish settlement in the West Bank, moving the first 11 of a planned 300 mobile homes into place in two West Bank settlements. He has refused to resume negotiations about withdrawing the Israeli army from most of Hebron by March as called for in the September 1995 West Bank agreement, or to continue talks on a "permanent status" agreement which formally began last May just before Netanyahu was elected. Netanyahu also said publicly that there is no hope of reaching a compromise with Palestinians on Jerusalem. ■

Concerns grow over deadlocked mideast peace process

By Rebecca Trounson
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM—Less than three months into Benjamin Netanyahu's term as Israel's prime minister, Israelis and Arabs alike say they fear that the deadlocked Middle East peace process may collapse.

After Israel and Syria traded angry accusations last week, with each side blaming each other for heightened tensions, Israeli politicians and columnists, for the first time in years, are speaking openly about the renewed possibility of war with Syria.

At the same time, the chill between Netanyahu's government and the Palestinians grew deeper last Thursday after a diplomatic tiff over a meeting between former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. The crisis was resolved in hours but prominent Palestinians said it was just the latest frustration in Palestinian efforts to deal with Netanyahu's government.

"What we are feeling now is fear, because this government's intention is not a peaceful one," said Saeb Erekat, a Palestinian Cabinet minister recently appointed to lead peace talks with Israel. "We feel that peace

is slipping through our fingers like sand."

Netanyahu and other Israeli officials have downplayed tensions, issuing assurances that Israel wants peace with its neighbors. Last Wednesday, Israel asked the United States to tell Syria that the Israelis are committed to peace and hope to resume talks without preconditions.

But Damascus, via its official media, and Palestinian leaders both have dismissed the Israeli overtures, saying they are unsupported.

Hanan Ashrawi, a professor who is Arafat's higher education minister, said: "I think Netanyahu has replaced policy with public relations. He is constantly repeating that he is committed to peace, but ... he refuses to implement agreements and violates the agreements that already exist."

Increasing the jitters for many Israelis is a growing perception that Netanyahu is unwilling or unable to make the tough decisions ahead, said Yaron Ezrahi, a political scientist and senior fellow at the



Arafat



Netanyahu

Israel Democracy Institute. "We seem to be seeing an absence of any real leadership on his part," Ezrahi said.

In an editorial last Thursday, the influential *Haaretz* newspaper issued a plea for "a calm atmosphere, devoid of threats and actions" and chastised Netanyahu and Syrian leaders for "creating a sense of being on the brink of war."

Throughout his campaign and since his election in May, Netanyahu has said he opposes returning the strategic Golan Heights to Syria, asserting Israel should trade peace—not land—for peace. On the Pales-

tinian front, he has delayed a promised troop withdrawal from Hebron, the last major Palestinian city under Israeli occupation.

He also has refused to meet with Arafat, a rebuff underlined Thursday by a friendly reunion between the Palestinian president and Peres. Netanyahu's predecessor as prime minister, Peres was an architect—with Arafat and assassinated Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin—of the 1993 Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement.

Peres and Arafat were to meet last Thursday in the West

Bank town of Ramallah. But Netanyahu's government barred Arafat from flying from his headquarters in Gaza to the meeting: hours later, permission was granted but Arafat refused it and instead met with Peres in Gaza.

Palestinians were outraged by what they saw as an attempt to humiliate their leader. "This attitude is highhanded and patronizing, a return to the attitude of the occupiers," Ashrawi said.

David Bar-Ilan, Netanyahu's spokesman, blamed "technical problems"—coordination woes between Israeli military and political officials—for the initial denial of Arafat's request. But Bar-Ilan castigated Peres for talking to Arafat, saying: "The danger is that Arafat will think that what Peres suggests to him has the backing of the government."

Erekat said the Palestinians plan to ask the United States and other nations to help jumpstart the stalled peace negotiations. "On the West Bank and Gaza, we are facing a pressure-cooker situation," he said. "We have nonimplementation of the agreement signed with Israel and we don't have a peace process."

A senior Israeli politician also has warned that Netanyahu's unwillingness to consider returning the Golan to

Syria might inadvertently provoke a war. Hagai Merom, a Labor Party member of the Israeli Parliament and former chair of its Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, said Israeli intelligence fears Damascus may opt for war to break the diplomatic deadlock. Merom called for an urgent special session of Parliament to discuss the "worrisome" situation with Syria.

But the Palestinian-Israeli relations may be on a way to a thaw. Whether political posturing on the part of Netanyahu or not, but he had said earlier this week that he would be meeting with the Yasser Arafat sometime before 10 September according to Israel Radio. It said that Netanyahu would meet Arafat before travelling to Washington.

The PNA has already agreed to close down three of its offices in Jerusalem in return for putting the peace process on track.

But it is argued that Netanyahu is under increasing pressure from his own Likud Party to meet with the head of the PNA. All these factors may eventually bear enough pressure to bring back the peace process on track. ■

China linked to Pakistani missile plant

US officials said that completion of the factory would for the first time give the Pakistani government an ability to match India's indigenous production of the Prithvi medium-range ballistic missile, which could also be equipped with nuclear warheads.

By R. Jeffrey Smith
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

WASHINGTON—US intelligence officials have concluded that the government of Pakistan is secretly building a medium-range missile factory using blueprints and equipment supplied by China, in a development that officials said raises the prospect of a major new US proliferation dispute with Beijing.

The partially completed factory, said by US officials to be located in a suburb of the northern city of Rawalpindi, near Islamabad, is expected to be capable in a year or two of producing most of the major components of a missile modeled after the Chinese-designed M-11. Some officials believe the factory will produce precise duplicates of the missile.

The United States has twice imposed limited economic sanctions against China for selling M-11 missile launchers and finished missile components to Pakistan, but lifted them after China promised to halt such deliveries.

Washington only recently settled a dispute with China over a sale to Pakistan of nuclear-related equipment, and officials say the construction of the missile factory raises the possibility that broad economic sanctions eventually could be imposed on both nations.

The existence of the Pakistani factory has been known to US intelligence officials since last year, when construction evidently began, but it has never been publicly disclosed. Its purpose is described in a recent, classified US National Intelligence Estimate on China's missile-related assistance to Pakistan, which also states that Pakistan may have developed nuclear warheads to be placed atop its M-11 missiles. A National Intelligence Estimate is a consensus view of US intelligence agencies.

US officials said that completion of the factory would for the first time give the Pakistani government an ability to match India's indigenous production of the Prithvi medium-range ballistic missile, which could also be equipped with nuclear warheads. India and Pakistan are archenemies, and Washington fears that any deployment of such weapons could bring the two nations close to the brink of war.

If the US intelligence report about the factory is heeded by US policy-makers, the Clinton administration could be forced once again to take up the politically delicate task of confronting China's prickly leadership with an allegation that Beijing is spreading advanced, mass-destruction weaponry to a US ally, according to several officials.

"There is no question there is an involvement" by China in the missile factory, said a US policy-maker privy to the intelligence reports. The official cautioned, however, that Washington is seeking additional information about this assistance, and that no formal ruling has been made that China is subject to sanctions under US nonproliferation laws. He called it "a current case" before officials responsible for making such a determination.

A US complaint earlier this year that China sold ring magnets to Pakistan for use in enriching uranium for nuclear arms raised hackles in Beijing and Islamabad and soured China's relations with the United States. The administration eventually decided to avoid a major diplomatic confrontation by agreeing not to impose economic sanctions in exchange for a Chinese pledge that the nuclear sales would not be repeated.

But top administration officials in recent months have been trying to avoid provoking a further confrontation with China. US officials who traveled to Beijing last month for consulta-

tions on Chinese policies governing the export of weapons-related goods did not raise the issue of the M-11 factory. According to one official, Washington has complained about it to Pakistan, but the Pakistani leadership denied that such a factory exists.

Four US officials who spoke about the factory on condition they not be named said it appeared to constitute a particularly serious violation of China's repeated pledge to observe the provisions of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), an agreement among roughly 30 nations that restricts exports of missiles or missile technology capable of carrying nuclear warheads more than 185 miles. The M-11 is assessed at having a range slightly greater than 185 miles when equipped with such warheads.

Under a 1990 law mandating economic sanctions for MTCR violations, the penalty for transferring missile production technology is a cutoff of certain US export licenses and, for communist nations, a ban on most exports to the United States for a period of two years. The sanctions can be waived if the president determines that doing so is required by "national security."

Such sanctions would affect US exports to China of electronics items, military goods and space-related equipment, as well as imports of Chinese-made goods in these categories. The exact value of the goods that might face sanctions is unclear, but in recent years China has exported about \$30 billion in goods annually to the United States, while US exporters have shipped about \$9 billion a year in goods to China.

US officials said they believe China may have signed a secret contract with Pakistan nearly a decade ago to furnish the missile factory as well as roughly three dozen completed M-11 missiles. According to one official, the

intelligence community has been watching "crates of stuff" arrive at the factory from China for months. The contents of some of the crates has been determined with a high degree of certainty, the official said.

While exporting completed missiles is a grave matter, transferring "production technology" is the worst, said Leonard S. Spector, an expert on proliferation matters at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "As the old aphorism says: If you give a man a fish, he eats for a day; if you teach a man to fish, he eats for a lifetime. It is a serious offense."

Zamir Akram, the deputy chief of mission at the Pakistani Embassy, said in response to a reporter's query that "we have no knowledge of such a factory." Although the city of Rawalpindi harbors a major military base, the suburb where US sources say the factory is being built, Tarwanah, has "no major military or air force facilities. As far as I know, there is nothing of this kind at all," Akram said.

Akram said the US claims evidently originated with "dubious people in so-called intelligence agencies" who seek to malign Pakistan. An official of the Chinese Embassy here denied that Beijing was helping Pakistan build M-11 missiles. "We consider this matter completely closed," the official said. "There never was any such cooperation. This was discussed when we signed the 1994 agreement" with Washington to bar exports of missiles, such as the M-11, that have an inherent capability to exceed the limit set by the missile control regime.

After the 1994 agreement, Washington lifted sanctions on 10 Chinese companies it claimed had been involved in providing M-11 components to Pakistan. ■

Chechen refugee family decides to cut their losses

The edgy laughter of relief echoes through the rooms. This is the second time Luiza's family has escaped death in two sieges of Grozny, and she has decided there will be no more dramatic escapes.

By Vanora Bennett
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

MOSCOW—They have hacking coughs after two weeks of hiding in the cellar, and the children still scream when they hear approaching airplanes.

But Luiza Autarkhanova and her family count themselves lucky. Last week, they escaped the horror of Grozny, leaving their mansion half-ruined in the wake of a two-week battle between separatist Chechen fighters and Russian soldiers for control of the town center.

Only one of Luiza's sisters is still missing in the burning wasteland of the Chechen capital, among tens of thousands of other Chechens struggling to get away through shell-shattered courtyards, burning factories and streets patrolled by Russian helicopter gunships.

The rest of the family is safe. A panicky odyssey across half of Russia—by car, on foot, by taxi and plane—has brought Luiza to a tiny apartment in Moscow, where she is sharing two rooms with her four children, her mother, another sister and a brother-in-law.

The edgy laughter of relief echoes through the rooms. This is the second time Luiza's family has escaped death in two sieges of Grozny, and she has decided there will be no more dramatic escapes.

"I'll never go back to Grozny," Luiza said, hoarse-voiced, fingers plucking nervously at a borrowed dress of cheap floral fabric. She and her husband, Musa, have decided to cut their losses, abandon what is

left of their wealth and property in Chechnya and start again from zero in a new place.

The 20-month war, which began when Russia sent troops into Chechnya to crush a 3-year-old separatist regime there, has not just destroyed the fabric of the capital and killed thousands of soldiers and separatist fighters. The heaviest penalty has been paid by the silent majority of peaceful civilians—who want nothing more than a quiet life and the chance to bring up their children decently, and to whom the passions of war mean little.

Their wishes are ignored by both warring sides, and the riches-to-rags story of the Autarkhanovs is typical.

Before the war, the Autarkhanovs' house on Red Veterans' Street was a gracious place of airy rooms, rich carpets and chandeliers. The silvery roof was edged with filigree work and crescent moons. A long veranda ran around the edge of the enclosed courtyard, leaving plenty of space for Musa's white BMW and an endless flow of his friends' Toyotas and Suzukis.

Musa, a young lawyer impatient with the separatists then in power, had given up his job in a state-run raw-materials enterprise and started a private business, busting a Russian economic blockade against Chechnya and smuggling in food. The separatists were provoking Moscow, he said, but not bothering to feed their dependents when Moscow struck back.

Such post-Soviet political chaos in Moscow and Grozny made Musa rich. In those days, he paid for his purchases from a wad of \$100 bills as thick as a brick.

But then the tension between Moscow and Grozny turned into war. The first full-scale onslaught on Grozny by the Russian army, at the beginning of the war, ended the Autarkhanovs' carefree life.

A shell blew half the roof off their house, leaving the interior exposed to the elements. The Autarkhanovs fled to Moscow to wait out the siege. Back home, their carpets and furniture were looted.

Musa took as much of the family's money as he could to set himself up with work and a new home in Vologda, in northern Russia, while Luiza went back to Grozny with the children to patch up the damaged house and sell it.

There were new bursts of fighting—notably a three-day assault on the Russian-held city by rebel fighters in March—but Luiza's neighbors slowly regained confidence and began repairing their shattered homes, sifting out whole bricks from the rubble, finding wood and cement and paint in a bid to restart normal life.

Then another full-scale onslaught on Grozny began. Russian planes broke a cease-fire by bombing Chechen villages in July. On 6 Aug, rebel fighters swarmed back into the city with green velvet berets on their heads, handloaders of bullets over their chests and grenade launchers in their hands.

"My mother told me two days running about rumors that the fighters were coming back and said we should be very careful or perhaps leave town altogether," Luiza said. "But I thought they'd just whisk in and out, like they did in March. I never imagined that the city would be subjected to

complete destruction a second time."

At first, Luiza and her children—Magomed, 13, Liza, 9, Saïda, 7, and 2-year-old Umar—were not too worried. The sounds of shelling and shooting were distant. It was only on the second or third day, when the Russian helicopters began to fly overhead and the house next door was destroyed, that they crept down into the relative safety of their cellar.

For days, it was impossible to escape. The shelling was too heavy. The fighters were all around, and helicopters filled the skies.

Then Russia's security chief, Alexander I. Lebed, began an attempt to end the battle. A cease-fire was declared, which never stopped the fighting altogether but did bring a few hours of relative calm every day.

Luiza's neighbors realized the time had come to escape. Bringing only extra clothes for the children, seven families packed themselves into nine cars and set off over broken bridges and potholed roads to safety. The separatist fighters who held most of Grozny turned out to be both friends and foes.

"The fighters showed us a way out through the back roads of Factory District," Luiza said. "I'd never even seen it before. They were incredibly calm—they don't seem to know the meaning of fear—and they warned us against stopping. They said the Russians would shell any crowd they saw gathering."

Luiza's mother, Belita Anzorova, said, "... once we got out of town, the fighters took our cars, so we had no transport to get



A Chechen family escaping the terror of Russia's shelling of Grozny

out of Chechnya."

The families walked west until they found cars whose drivers were willing to take them to the nearest safe airport, about 60 miles away.

It is not easy for Chechens to set up home in other parts of Russia. Racial animosity toward the dark-skinned people of the south—especially the Chechens—is rife. Many Russians openly call the Chechens derogatory names and suspect them of being innately violent and criminally

minded. In defiance of official police figures, many Russians persist in thinking that Chechens run Russia's biggest organized crime rings.

But Luiza is philosophical about her own prospects in Vologda, where her husband is waiting for the family to rejoin him. Musa went to college there, she says, and had plenty of friends. "Problems do crop up, but I think they can all be sorted out," she said. ■

Walt Disney's films accused of racism, ADC

WASHINGTON—The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), in conjunction with other ethnic groups and civil rights organizations, has held a demonstration against Walt Disney's anti-Arab films on Thursday, 22 August, in front of the Disney headquarters in Burbank and Disneyland in Anaheim, California.

These protests come after repeated attempts at establishing a constructive dialogue with Walt Disney. Following the release of "Aladdin" in late 1992, ADC and Walt Disney reached an agreement whereby Disney promised to consult with Arab Americans prior to releasing projects involving them as to avoid defamation. This promise was breached with the release of "Father of the Bride, Part II" and "Kazam!"—both of which perpetuated harmful stereotypes of Arab Americans and Middle Easterners. Walt Disney has so far failed to even acknowledge the concerns of Arab Americans, who continue to call on this leader in entertainment for children to cease defaming and ridiculing their cultural heritage.

Walt Disney is pursuing its



Aladdin revisited with new stereotypes from Disney

tradition of ethnic stereotyping. Disney's Arab-bashing history includes the following incidents:

■ In 1993, following ADC's campaign against stereotypical aspects of "Aladdin," Walt Disney promised to consult with Arab Americans prior to the production of films containing Middle Eastern characters.

■ In 1995, Father of the Bride,

how bad their breath might smell.

Now it's Kazam! starring Shaquille O'Neal. The film, rated PG-13, contains evil American characters of Middle Eastern descent modeled after "Mr. Habib" in Father of the Bride, Part II. The plot revolves around a genie by the name of Kazam (Shaquille O'Neal) and a 12-year-old boy, Max (Francis

Capra). Max's father, Travis Connor, is an entertainment producer with a dubious past and trouble with the law. The evil "Mr. Malek"—a Middle Eastern American—works with Travis. He is portrayed as a shrewd gold-digger who would go to any lengths to enrich himself. Mr. Malek is a repulsive, unshaven individual with a devilish laugh, a thick

Middle Eastern accent, and gluttonous eating habits.

Mr. Malek and his evil assistants—El Baz and Hassem, who are also of Middle Eastern origin, beat Travis and threaten Max. Mr. Malek wants Max to ask his genie, Kazam, to make him rich—otherwise he will kill his Dad. The unscrupulous Mr. Malek throws the boy down a shaft when he and his father resist. In the end, Mr. Malek is beaten by Travis and Kazam, who makes a human bouncing ball out of him before throwing him in a garbage can.

This film, produced by Touchstone Pictures—a subsidiary of Walt Disney—paints an ugly image of Americans of Middle Eastern ancestry.

The ADC is the largest Arab-American grassroots organization in the country. It is a non-sectarian, non-partisan service organization dedicated to protecting the civil rights of Americans of Arab descent and combating anti-Arab racism, discrimination, and stereotyping. It is seeking a campaign against stereotyping in Walt Disney.

'TWA flight 800' and the threat of terrorism

By Lana Tabba'a
Special to The Star

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND—Experts were already speculating, a few hours after the TWA crash, about a powerful bomb that may have found its way onto the plane, or of people who may have launched a missile against the airline. If the plane was sabotaged, the disaster becomes America's third tragedy following the Oklahoma City and World Trade Centre bombings.

The focus, however, quickly turned to the fact that US airport security is lax compared to other countries. The reality, though, is that as the method of terrorists progressed, security in US airports remained mixed in the past with preventive measures such as metal detectors that were developed in the 1970s. Those worked well at first, but do little to combat the threats posed by bombers. Moreover, US airports have no systematic way of screening for explosives that a terrorist may want to sneak aboard an aircraft. Metal detectors might miss plastics or liquids used to assemble a bomb.

At Kennedy airport, checked-in luggage is sniffed by specially trained dogs or scanned by electronic vapour-particle detectors that can locate explosives. But if explosives are in air-tight containers, they may be missed. Considering the CTX 5000 scanning device, combining computed tomography and X-ray

imaging to produce x-sectional images of a bag's content, it detects all varieties of bombs and explosives but costs between \$400 million and \$2.2 billion. Such a detector just happens to be very expensive and airlines, many of which are in debt, cannot make such investments.

Terrorists, on the other hand, are aware both of airport vulnerabilities and how existing security measures could be defeated. Here, however, and in other airports, passengers run a series of check-points before boarding, all incoming international baggage is X-rayed and matched with a passenger. In the US, to save time, baggage checked at curbside is often taken directly to the cargo area without going through X-ray machines. But, will the American public be willing to arrive at the airport three hours prior to departure time and sit there for hours and hours just waiting for baggage check-up? Americans, painfully, may have no choice but to give up some convenience for their safety in the sky.

The threat of terrorism can never be entirely erased. Tightening airport security is like squeezing one end of a balloon: if airlines become too difficult a target, terrorists will aim their weapons elsewhere.

This event leaves us in a state of unease, all of which will be made worse by the way America tries to pretend there is no such thing as tragedy. But the memory will remain with the Americans forever, reminding them of who they are and where they live! ■



Diana fights for privacy!



PRINCESS DIANA is now officially divorced from Prince Charles, heir to the British throne. Since news of the Royal separation became public, Diana's story grew into a media bonanza. She became a prey to paparazzi photographers who found her story most "rewarding."

Photographers were chasing Diana every day to take exclusive shots and thus invading her privacy.

Diana's frustration with the situation culminated in her decision to sue Martin Stenning, the English photographer who, she said, made her life hell. Stenning was banned by the courts from going within 300 metres of her.

But will the photographers leave Diana now she is divorced? ■



Organized criminal gangs force Albanian women into prostitution abroad

By Ismijë Beshiri and Fabian Schmidt

CRIMINAL GANGS smuggle an ever increasing number of Albanian women to neighboring countries and force them to engage in prostitution. A report published by the Albanian Helsinki Committee has now called public attention to this problem, which developed since the end of Albanian communism in 1991.

The widespread desire to leave the impoverished country in hope of a better future makes it easy for the gangs to find prey. Most of the women come from a background of conservative family values and often do not have a secondary education. The demand for social conformity in the family and the immediate neighborhood is high. But especially in remote areas, poverty and the desire to migrate are strong.

There are various ways through which Albanian women get into the vicious circle of prostitution. The most widespread method the gangs use is to promise marriages. Albanian men offer a wedding abroad and sometimes even throw a fake bachelor's party, but once outside Albania they

force the betrayed bride into prostitution. One woman from Tirana went to Italy at the age of 18 after her alleged friend had promised to marry her there. After being forced into prostitution she managed to escape from the brothel and was given refuge by a nun. Three months later, when

...women were simply kidnapped on the street and smuggled over the border with forged papers, sometimes after having been drugged

working in Milan, the gang kidnapped her again and forced her into prostitution for about half a year. Attempts to get help from her customers failed.

In other cases, the criminals convince women to leave the country by promising them a serious job. Yet another method is kidnapping. In one case, the child of a 23 year-old woman was kidnapped and brought to Greece. The criminals then threatened to kill the child unless the mother went there. She was subsequently

raped after arriving in Greece and forced into prostitution. Elsewhere, women were simply kidnapped on the street and smuggled over the border with forged papers, sometimes after having been drugged. In May 1995, Italian police found a woman who had been kidnapped in Albania, and subsequently smuggled to Italy where she was kept locked in a brothel.

What all women face equally is the difficulty of breaking out of that vicious circle. Not only do they become dependent on the criminal gangs, but since most of them are also illegal immigrants they are deprived of any legal protection. Most women say that they cannot go home since the strict conservative family values makes them outcasts once the family knows that they have engaged in prostitution. The precise number of Albanian prostitutes is unknown, but the Helsinki Committee estimated that one-third of all prostitutes in Italy are Albanian. Other estimates range between 4,000-7,000 in Italy, plus some 3,500 in Albania, additional hundreds in Macedonia, and another 3,000 in Greece. ■



Marriage in air

● Couples all over the world always want their weddings to be unparalleled. But to hold a marriage ceremony high in the sky is unbelievable.

Getting married by riding the wind at 1,500ft was the adventure of the British couple, Dave Lawrence and Jane Harland, who were accompanied by vicar Anthony Kelton. The vicar later said it was a heavenly experience.



Abeer Al Bawab

Ultimate search for truth

By Munther Hamdan
Star Staff Writer

In her exhibition at the Royal Cultural Center which ends today, Thursday, Abeer Al Bawab reveals much of the artist's dexterity in presenting an anatomy of the human being. Mainly about women and their relationship to the city, the paintings are ventures through the inner feelings, tastes and outlooks of women. "I pick up the subjects I want to paint from everyday reality and avoid painting fantasies," Al Bawab told *The Star*.

As a modern artist, Al Bawab exhibits a complex view of

the city and its people. In her paintings, the city is transformed into a concept. It is no more buildings, vehicles and pedestrians but a new way of thought which has a bearing on its people. Al Bawab wants to convey through art how a woman would react with and to the complexity of the city without being overwhelmed by it. "No matter how educated women are, they still react with fear to the city and all its aspects," Al Bawab added.

What can be detected through her style is her attempt to combine more than one element of the work of art so that it becomes impossible to understand each element without referring it to the other. Women, buildings, the sky. These are all one and an indivisible structure.

The artist's view of life is multi-dimensional where people need to be always watchful so as not to be lost in all this chaos. On one of her paintings, she wrote, "Our dreams are like bubbles which puncture once they are hit by reality."



Al Bawab

Such words disclose how Al Bawab focuses on depicting people's disappointment with a harsh reality that does not fulfill their high expectations. This was manifested clearly in her painting titled "Governed by Hope," the famous title of the speech of the Syrian playwright Sa'allah Wannous which was delivered on the World Theater Day.

In those words, Wannous summarized the decline in the Arab world and that the only thing that remains is hope. Al Bawab was influenced by these words which she said built something inside her and led her to establish a "mature style." "It is a problem to deal with reality on emotional basis rather than rationally," she said.

Other paintings have titles like "The Man," "The Woman," "The Departure," "Icon" and "Spaces." They are clues by which people can identify with the nature of the painting. These titles are inseparable and form one structure. In "The Departure," she sheds light on

"the conflict between the old and the new cities." Through her spaces, she opens new horizons for people who feel imprisoned by memories and locked in the city which, though appears to be wide and vast, gets narrower as it inflicts sadness upon its inhabitants.

The artist mingles abstract aspects with live pictures from everyday reality. Though it might look unnecessary at the first glance, the mixture of the two elements mobilizes the painting and keeps it away from passivity. In some paintings, characters are drawn without their external features or body physique.

This kind of abstraction is part of the artist's search for the essence of the human beings, removing masks worn by them. "The Man" and "The Woman" paintings are portraits which are juxtaposed with abstract flashes. These are moments of dreams as Al Bawab puts it. They can also be seen as part of the stream of consciousness of people's memories whether sad, lustful or revolutionary. From her point of view she portrays man as one filled with complexity.

The artist's way of presenting the essence of humans is audacious because it requires an ultimate search for the truth. She says that subjects are abundant but what we need is a distinguished style and techniques of painting. "We should move beyond imitation of western style to an independent Arabic plastic art."

Gipsy Kings' Chico excels in Amman

AMMAN (Star)—Last Tuesday, the Roman Amphitheater in downtown Amman witnessed a special occasion of Spanish music and flamenco. The singing was performed by Chico, a former member of the famous Gipsy Kings, and his music band. Flamenco fans cheered loudly as Chico performed his famous singing act. It was a memorable concert. Young and old people dancing on the front stage really flavored the atmosphere.

The concert was held under the patronage of HRH Princess Rania and sponsored by the French Embassy and the Jordan River Development Project. The proceeds of the concert will be for charity.

Before the concert began a DJ played famous western songs. The crowd just sang

famous specially in Latin America and the Far East.

The setting of the concert contributed to its success. Amman at night, with its lights and tranquility, is wonderful. It made Chico's performance a one-man-show. Though he was not a soloist, his guitar performance made him the star of the show. His long hair and Spanish gypsy features were just

thrilling to people who started to dance the Spanish way. Chico interacted with the audience by addressing them with Spanish words and screaming at them to get more cheering.

He performed famous songs and improvised others. Among those were *Fiesta Mora*, *Bambola*, and *Djibi Djiba*. The audience went into a frenzy.

Chico sang in Arabic *Yalla Bina Yalla* and its parallel Spanish tune. His singing was so perfect that one could not tell the difference.

The fact that the group chose an Arabic tune proves that our musical repertoire is rich. This song is a great success not only in the Middle East but internationally as one million copies of the song has been sold. Before coming to Amman, Chico performed in Beirut and Cairo.



along. The concert kicked off at 10 pm, an hour later than expected. However the audience were in a jovial mood as the DJ continued playing the best in music.

The technical facilities including lights, amplifiers, and stage set were part of the impressive scene. The presenter of the concert was Muhammad Al Jazeera of Jordan's Radio English Service.

As a famous member of the popular Gipsy Kings, Chico's performance reminded the audience of that amazing act. The four-member group performed popular songs both in Spanish and English.

The group was accompanied by flamenco dancers who provided the audience with a real treat. Gipsy Kings are world-

Kodak Express enters Jordan's photofinishing market



THE KODAK Near East Express launched its program to the photofinishing market in Jordan. On the occasion, the Allied Trading Company, representatives of Kodak Express in Jordan, held a press conference last Monday at the Amman Marriott Hotel. The conference was attended by the General Manager of the Allied Trading Company Mr Akram Shaheen, and representatives of the Near East Kodak Inc Mr Yase Zeltounzian and Mr Mustafa Zaghoul.

Jordan is added to the large number of Kodak outlets spread in the Middle East. This was after the signing of the agreement between the Allied Trading Company and owners of photo centers in Jordan to adopt Kodak and promote its products. Kodak Near East has nine outlets in Oman, 71 in Cyprus, 32 in Syria, 14 in Bahrain, 22 in Kuwait and 82 in UAE.

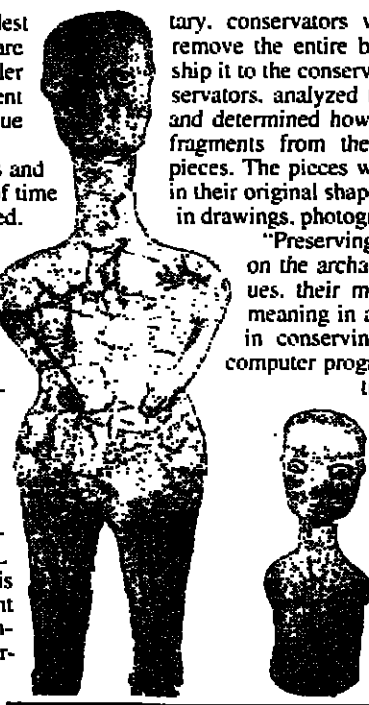
Jordan's neolithic statues on display in Washington

AMMAN (Star)—Eight examples of the oldest human sculpture ever found in the Near East are showing at the Smithsonian's Arthur M. Sackler Gallery in Washington. Titled "Preserving Ancient Statues from Jordan," the exhibition will continue till April, 1997.

Two human figures, three double-headed busts and three faces modelled on human skulls, all made of time plaster and nearly life size, are being displayed. These ancient figures from 6500-7000 B.C. were discovered in 1985 at the prehistoric site of "Ain Ghazal", near Amman. In 1986, the Smithsonian's Conservation Analytical Laboratory (CAL) in Suitland, Md., undertook the task of uncovering, studying and preserving the statues, which are on loan from Dept of Antiquities in Jordan.

Exhibition curator Ann Gunter, associate curator of ancient Near Eastern art at the Sackler Gallery, worked in collaboration with Carol Grissom, a senior objects conservator at CAL who is responsible for the Ain Ghazal conservation project. Gunter says: "since the cache at CAL has only now been uncovered and conserved, it is virtually unpublished. The exhibition will present this material to the public and the scholarly community for the first time and will provide an opportunity to explore many aspects of the statues—archaeological, cultural and technical."

The statues were accidentally discovered when a bulldozer digging for road construction car through part of the site of "Ain Ghazal," exposing the cache of statues. Because the statues were fragile and fragmen-



Statues from Ain Ghazal

tary, conservators working with archaeologists decided to remove the entire block of earth containing the statues and ship it to the conservation's analytical Laboratory. There, conservators analyzed the materials used in making the statues and determined how they were made; carefully removed the fragments from the block of earth; and strengthened the pieces. The pieces were then reassembled to form the statues in their original shape. Every step of this process was recorded in drawings, photographs, videotape and details notes.

"Preserving Ancient Statues from Jordan" focuses on the archaeological context of the Ain Ghazal statues, their materials and manufacture, their probable meaning in ancient society and on the processes used in conserving this ancient material. An interactive computer program in the exhibition includes: a description of the statues discovery, a computer-generated graphic sequence demonstrating how the statues were made, an account of the examination and conservation of the statues at CAL and an exploration of the statues as works of art and cultic objects.

Programs in connection with the exhibition were produced by the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery in consultation with the CAL and supported by a grant from the James Smithson Society.

The Arthur M Sackler Gallery, a national museum of Asian art at the Smithsonian Institution is located near the Smithsonian Metrorail Museum. Hours are from 10 am to 5:30 every day, and admission is free. Free public tours are offered daily.

Supersonic bid at Jordan's Jafr

Jordan's Al Jafr desert could be the place where, for the first time in history, a land-based vehicle travels faster than sound could be made.

A 10.5 mile (16.8 kms) stretch of the desert south of Amman is to be used for the final testing of the Castrol-sponsored Thrust Super Sonic Car before it makes an attempt on the new world land speed

record.

That attempt is scheduled for America in September, but if all goes well in Jordan, the British team, headed by current record holder, Richard Noble, could make a bid while still in the Middle East.

Noble and his team of scientists believe that it is possible for a car to travel at more than 760 mph (1223 kph), pass through the sound barrier and still stay in contact with the ground.

Design work on Thrust SSC has been carried out by missile expert Ron Ayers and Richard Noble has full confidence in Ayer's calculations. He said "Early in the development pro-

gramme we did extremely complex studies of the effects of airflow on a model of Thrust SSC. Since then we have done testing with a model on a rocket sled travelling at Mach 1.1.

"We then compared the two sets of figures to see if they agreed. They did. From that point on Ron and I were confident we knew exactly what happens to the airflow over and beneath a car travelling at supersonic speed."

"From that moment an attempt on the sound barrier on land was truly feasible."

When Noble set the current record of 633.46 mph (1019.44 kph) the airflow over the cockpit of his car was supersonic.

As a car accelerates the force of gravity becomes less and less able to keep it firmly in contact with the ground and finely tuned aerodynamics have been devised to ensure Thrust SSC, and its driver RAF pilot Andy Green, don't take off.

Castrol, the principal company of the Lubricants division of the Burmah Castrol group, have sponsored a considerable amount of the research and development work for Thrust SSC. The company will provide lubricants for the Rolls Royce jet engines as well as for the bearings in the aluminium alloy wheels which will rotate at 8500 rpm and have a massive heat build up.

Specially designed lubricants will be used to maintain the efficiency and peak performance of each of the 25,000 lb thrust of the twin jet engines and to ensure that the wheel bearings play their vital role.

Castrol's backing for Thrust SSC is the latest in a long history of support for world land speed record attempts over the last 75 years, including for Richard Noble's record setting runs of 633.48 mph in 1983.

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



Rhino recitals



"Well, I'll be damned. Says here 70 percent of all accidents happen in the hole."



Dance of the Beekeepers



Clown therapy sessions

AGENDA

Exhibitions

■ An exhibition by Lina Hani, at the Housing Bank Complex Gallery, continues till 31 August
■ Summer '96, at Darat al Funun, continues till 10 October.
■ An abstract plastic art exhibition by Abeer Al Bawab, at The Royal Cultural Centre, ends today, Thursday.

Theater

■ "The Estranged"

Nation", by Aziz Khayoun at Darat al Funun, 4 September

Films

■ Alice, at The American Center, today at 5:00 pm.
■ Samia Halaby, at Darat al Funun, today at 6:00 pm.

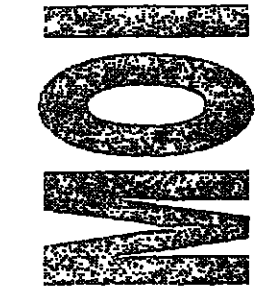
Lectures

■ Handmade Paper, by Usama Al Khalidi, at Darat al Funun, starts 1 September.

Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

SELON



La Jordanie telle qu'on la connaît aujourd'hui a derrière elle cinquante années d'existence durant lesquelles la transition vers le modernisme a rencontré de nombreux obstacles.

Des efforts considérables ont été fournis pour amener une société menant une vie presque primitive vers un état régi par des institutions et adapté de la façon la plus proche possible aux sociétés modernes.

Les difficultés provenaient essentiellement de l'absence de ressources permettant le démarrage du processus, de l'instabilité politique et sociale due à la crise israélo-arabe et aux différents bouleversements qui ont secoué les pays voisins. La structure même de la société posait problème, entre les Jordanien adeptes de la vie de leurs ancêtres et l'absence de volonté de certains dirigeants pistonnés et arrivistes qui préféraient conserver le statu quo intellectuel de base de la population pour masquer leur incompétence.

Depuis la naissance du royaume, beaucoup de fausses valeurs ont émergé du néant et flottent encore sur la surface de notre vie quotidienne aidées par des mains invisibles qui évitent leur submersion dans leur propre ignorance.

Parmi les hommes sincères et doués qui ont servi la patrie en silence, parmi ces Jordanien qui ont réussi par leur connaissance et leurs capacités individuelles, nos souvenirs nous emportent vers notre enfance où un nom nous fascinait.

Dans la Jordanie du milieu des années soixante, notre idole, dont on ne connaissait que le nom, était Nasri Jme'n, l'un des premiers Jordanien à briller dans les arts.

Il avait tout d'abord commencé sa carrière à la Jordan Air Force avant de rejoindre la Royal Airlines qui s'appelaient en ce temps-là «Alia». Nous entendions qu'il manipulait les avions comme des jouets, qu'il s'amusait à voler dans des petits avions en frôlant les toits des maisons de Madaba pour «frimer» devant les belles cousines.

Le capitaine Nasri a vu grandir la Royal et pendant de longues années, il n'a cessé de survoler les océans, de Singapour à Chicago, emportant avec lui le prestige du pays.

Nasri a conservé malgré ses 33 années de service, ses cheveux blancs et quelques rides, sa fraîcheur d'antan. Son amour pour le métier l'a conduit à ne pas rendre les armes voilà quelques années et à poursuivre ses acrobaties malgré trois pontages coronaires.

Des Caravelles aux Airbus en passant par les Boeing et les Tristar, il a toujours su courtoiser avec galanterie et doigté «ses belles mal-tresses». La Capitaine Nasri se défait aujourd'hui de son parachute et va bientôt retrouver la vie terrestre. Celui qui s'est entêté, contre les ingénieurs de Lockheed, à réaliser un direct Los Angeles-Amman avec le même plein d'essence de son Tristar, se contentera désormais de voyager loin de la petite cabine-avant qu'il a côtoyée pendant trois longues décennies.

Le prochain départ en retraite de ce pionnier jordanien signifie que notre pays a grandi et qu'une génération se voit déjà laisser la place à une jeunesse ayant le devoir de poursuivre le chemin de la renaissance.

Souhail Al Sweis

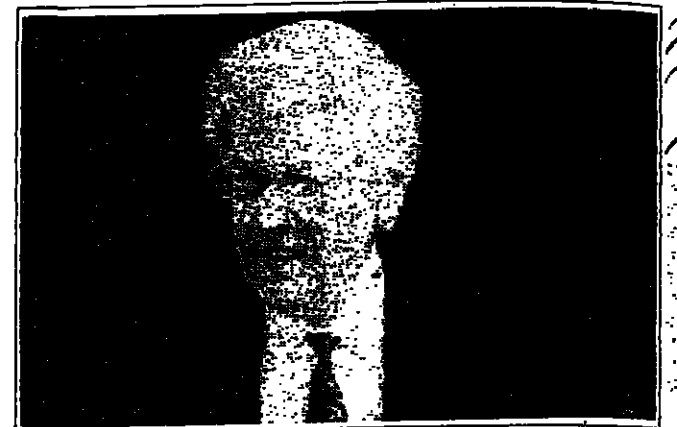
L'Irak fait des reproches à l'Onu

● L'Irak s'est défendu mardi de cacher des armes et a adressé une série de reproches au chef de la commission spéciale de l'Onu chargée du désarmement irakien (UNSCOM), Rolf Ekeus (voir photo), présent cette semaine à Bagdad.

Ces reproches concernent les affirmations selon lesquelles l'Irak continue de dissimuler des armes prohibées par les résolutions de l'Onu, et l'insistance des experts de l'Onu à inspecter des sites militaires et d'autres lieux que l'Irak considère comme sensibles pour sa sécurité et sa souveraineté.

M.Ekeus avait affirmé en juillet que l'Irak détenait toujours entre six et seize missiles de longue portée pouvant être dotés de têtes chimiques ou bactériologiques.

L'Irak et l'UNSCOM ont conclu le 22 juin un accord «sans condition» à tous ses sites. La commission a pour sa part promis de «respecter le souci de sécurité» de l'Irak en menant ses inspections. Aux termes des résolutions adoptées par le Conseil de sécurité à la suite de la guerre du Golfe, l'Irak doit démanteler son potentiel de destruction nucléaire, chimique et biologique, et se défaire des missiles dont la portée est supérieure à 150 km, afin d'obtenir une levée de l'embargo pétrolier.



Jérusalem

Le dialogue peut reprendre

Trois bureaux de l'Autorité nationale palestinienne ont été fermés dans le secteur oriental annexé de Jérusalem, conformément aux vœux du Premier ministre israélien Benjamin Netanyahu qui devrait désormais accepter de reprendre les négociations.

Trois institutions

palestiniennes ont été fermées à Jérusalem-Est cette semaine. Il s'agit d'une part du département de la jeunesse et des sports, du bureau chargé de surveiller l'expansion des colonies juives qui dépendent de l'Association des études arabes dirigée par Fayal Hussein, responsable du dossier de Jérusalem au sein de l'OLP et de l'autorité nationale palestinienne, et d'autre part d'un bureau de statistiques. Peu avant, le Premier ministre israélien avait rappelé que «les négociations avec les Palestiniens avanceraient très bientôt» et que le retrait de l'armée israélienne de Hébron dépendait de la fermeture de bureaux «illégaux» palestiniens à Jérusalem.

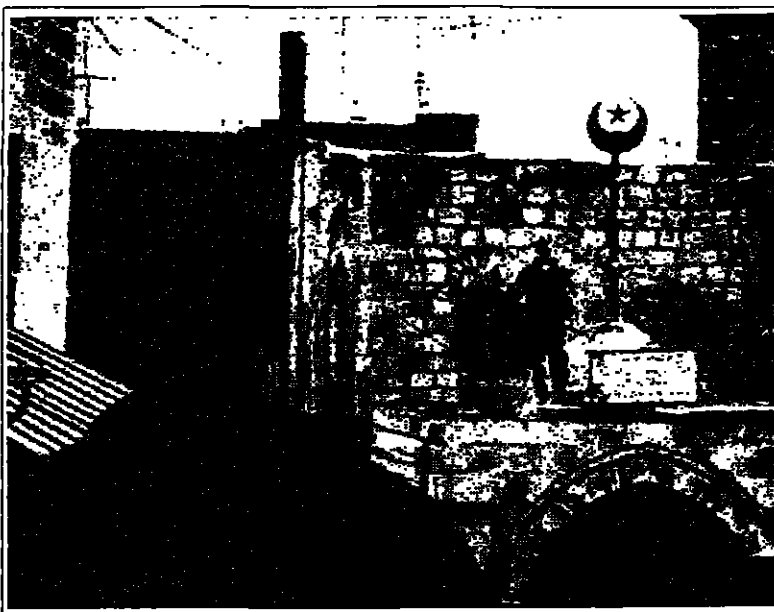
Plusieurs sources journalistiques parlent d'un compromis entre la direction palestinienne et le gouvernement israélien pour reprendre les négociations et accomplir enfin le redéploiement de la ville d'Hébron. Selon la version officielle répétée par trois ministres de l'ANP, l'Autorité ne possède pas de bureaux à Jérusalem-Est et n'a pas donné l'ordre de fermer ces institutions. Celles-ci existaient en effet avant l'arrivée de l'OLP en mai 1994 et elles possèdent même une autorisation du ministère israélien de l'Intérieur pour leurs activités.

Mais indépendamment de l'exactitude de la version officielle de l'Autorité palestinienne qui tient à ne pas céder aux pressions du gouvernement de Benjamin Netanyahu, les Palestiniens ont le moins bon rôle dans les négociations qui concernent actuellement Jérusalem et la reprise de la colonisation.

Dans Jérusalem, un véritable processus de colonisation est menée par les Israéliens depuis la signature des accords d'Oslo afin de créer un nouveau statu quo en faveur des Israéliens lors des négociations finales sur le statut définitif de Jérusalem.

Khalil Tafkij, un géographe, tire aujourd'hui la sonnette d'alarme: il reste à Jérusalem 4% de terres non confisquées. Or les autorités israéliennes de la partie Est de Jérusalem, occupée en juin 1967 avec Gaza et la Cisjordanie, empêchent les habitants de construire en utilisant différents moyens tels que le retrait des cartes d'identité.

Un projet du ministère de l'Intérieur appelé «le grand Jérusalem» consiste à annexer les colonies de Cisjordanie à la vieille ville de Jérusalem, en



Le dialogue ne parvient toujours pas à s'engager entre Palestiniens et Israéliens sur des sujets aussi épineux que celui de Jérusalem.

encercler la partie arabe et créer une nouvelle situation démographique. Un ancien ministre israélien, Yossi Biline, parle d'un coup mortel au processus de paix si ce projet de «grand Jérusalem» se réalise.

Une autre question explosive a trait avec Jérusalem: celle de la Maison d'Orient, représentation officielle de l'OLP à Jérusalem. Une institution qu'Israël a largement soutenue à une époque. C'est en effet le gouvernement Shamir qui avait encouragé en 1991

le développement de la Maison d'Orient où des personnalités politiques palestiniennes se réunissaient. Les dirigeants israéliens espéraient alors que ceux-ci remplacent la direction de l'OLP, interdite à l'époque. Or le gouvernement israélien souhaite aujourd'hui la fermeture de la Maison d'Orient.

La dispute à propos de Jérusalem, qui touche à des sujets aussi sensibles que celui des réfugiés ou de la colonisation, a démarré très tôt.

Une fois de plus, le gouvernement israélien essaie d'imposer de nouvelles réalités en violant des engagements déjà signés. Dans une lettre du gouvernement israélien écrite au moment de la déclaration de principes de 1993, Israël s'engageait en effet à ne pas toucher aux institutions palestiniennes de Jérusalem-Est.

De Gaza, Hassan Balawi

Émeutes

Amman accuse l'étranger

Après les émeutes qui ont touché le sud du pays, le gouvernement jordanien continue d'accuser des éléments étrangers d'être responsables de ces troubles. Une attitude dénoncée par l'opposition.

Près de deux semaines après les émeutes qui ont touché le sud du pays, la situation paraît des plus calmes dans l'ensemble du pays. Pourtant, beaucoup de personnes redoutent les conséquences de cette crise, notamment au sein de l'opposition ou du gouvernement.

L'un des motifs d'anxiété concerne l'avenir des relations jordanio-irakiennes qui se sont retrouvées au cœur d'une vive polémique.

La Jordanie a en effet à plusieurs reprises accusé le régime irakien d'avoir donné «des ordres directs» aux meneurs des émeutes qui ont secoué le sud du pays. Les autorités jordanien ont d'ailleurs pris des mesures contre trois diplomates de l'ambassade d'Irak à Amman, mais n'ont pas fait d'annonce officielle à ce sujet. Un employé irakien a été expulsé, un diplomate n'a pas reçu d'accréditation et l'attaché de presse de l'ambassade d'Irak devra écourter son séjour dans le royaume.

Les députés de l'opposition dénoncent cette accusation, estimant qu'elle ne repose pas sur des faits. Pour eux, les émeutes qui ont été déclenchées à Kérak et qui ont ensuite atteint Ma'an et Tafleeh, étaient spontanées. Selon eux, si des membres de différents partis politiques ont bien pris part à ces manifestations, cela ne signifie pas pour autant qu'ils aient reçu des ordres ou un soutien logistique de l'étranger pour déclencher ces émeutes.

Ils interprètent ces émeutes comme étant une expression spontanée de colère après l'annonce du triplement du prix du pain. Dans un mémorandum adressé au roi Hussein, 23 députés de la chambre basse du Parlement regrettent que le gouvernement fasse endosser la «responsabilité» de ces actes à des groupes étrangers au lieu de traiter les réactions du peuple avec sagesse.

Les députés ont demandé au

roi d'améliorer la situation en introduisant des réformes plus démocratiques puisque le «comportement du gouvernement avec les députés n'était pas à la hauteur». Pour eux, «le gouvernement n'a pas respecté la volonté de la majorité du Parlement qui était opposée à cette décision».

Des personnalités politiques centristes, dont les anciens Premiers ministres Taher Masi et Ahmad Obeidat, ont aussi publié un communiqué insistant sur le fait que cette crise intérieure au pays n'était due qu'à sa situation interne et non à des éléments extérieurs.

La question qui reste en suspens est celle de l'avenir du gouvernement de M.Kabari. Si le roi semble continuer à lui

témoigner sa confiance pour continuer à appliquer son programme de réformes économiques, il n'en demeure pas moins que sa durée de vie pourrait être désormais assez courte. Beaucoup de députés pensent en effet qu'un remaniement s'impose pour rectifier la situation. Un changement de gouvernement qui pourrait alors intervenir à l'automne avec la reprise de la session parlementaire.

Certains députés ont en effet déjà indiqué que le vote d'une motion de censure contre le gouvernement de M.Kabari serait inscrit en priorité à l'ordre du jour du Parlement.

Saadia Kilani



Pour l'opposition, dont les députés du Front de l'action islamique, les émeutes étaient spontanées.

C'est la vie

L'agenda français d'Amman

Le Centre culturel français reprend ses activités après une coupure estivale annuelle. Pour tout renseignement sur les enseignements proposés ou les manifestations organisées, tel: 636 445 ou 637 009.

Cinéma

«Louis XIV, enfant roi», de R.Planchon. Le 2 septembre à 20h00 au CCF.

Théâtre

Hisham et Nabil, les pionniers jordanien de la satire

Depuis cinq ans, les pièces des deux humoristes Hisham et Nabil connaissent un important succès en Jordanie. Ces comédiens ont été les premiers à se lancer dans la satire politique, et les premiers à présenter leur spectacle de l'autre côté du Jourdain. Pour eux, il est possible de rire de tout dans le royaume en montrant un certain respect.

«C'est l'avis du public qui compte, pas celui des critiques ou des professionnels du théâtre». En une phrase, Hisham Yanis explique le succès des pièces de théâtre qu'il présente avec son alter ego Nabil Sawalha depuis cinq ans. Assis dans le jardin du théâtre d'Amman portant désormais leurs noms où ils retrouvent chaque soir comédiens techniques et amis une heure avant le début de la représentation, Hisham et Nabil expliquent leur conception du théâtre.

«Nous avons un différend avec les artistes jordanien poursuit Hisham. «Nous leur disons: descendez de votre tour d'ivoire, simplifiez vos idées et allez droit au but. Évitez d'ennuyer le public et de faire de la philosophie. Notre problème en Jordanie, c'est que les personnes cultivées se croient supérieures à la masse. Les auteurs présentent des oeuvres qui ne reflètent pas le goût du public, ni la réalité environnante. Du coup, les théâtres se vident et c'est le niveau d'ensemble de la production théâtrale qui souffre. Il n'y a pas d'élèves qui ne comprennent pas. Il n'y a que des profs qui ne savent pas faire comprendre. Car le public est intelligent, et il distingue le bon du mauvais. C'est le plus impitoyable des juges. Le jour où les gens cesseront de venir nous voir, Nabil et moi, nous baisserons le rideau une bonne fois pour toutes».

Voilà plus de trente ans que Hisham et Nabil travaillent, ensemble ou de leur côté, à la télévision, à la radio ou au théâtre. Nabil était l'un des membres fondateurs du groupe national de théâtre jordanien en 1964

pour lequel il a travaillé comme acteur, auteur puis metteur en scène jusqu'en 1973. Il a également fondé le Centre culturel Haya destiné à la diffusion des arts et des sciences parmi les enfants jordanien.

Hisham, de son côté, a joué dans un grand nombre de feuilletons jordanien télévisés ou radiodiffusés et a également été scénariste pour la télévision du Qatar et CTW (Children Television Workshop).

En 1990, Hisham et Nabil décident d'écrire et de mettre en scène un feuilleton comique comportant treize épisodes pour la télévision jordanienne. Leur duo récoltant un franc succès, ils choisissent de revenir à leurs premières amours, le théâtre. «Nous rêvions d'imiter les personnalités du monde arabe avec la même irrévérence que les Anglais montrent quand ils se moquent de la Reine ou du gouvernement», explique Hisham. «Nous avons présenté l'idée du nouvel ordre mondial (titre de leur première pièce inspirée de la guerre du Golfe) à des professionnels du théâtre, lesquels ont eu peur de cette idée. Ils nous ont dit que c'était dangereux et que ce n'était pas un vrai texte dramatique. Nous avons persisté et présenté notre pièce pendant le mois du Ramadan en 1991 à l'hôtel Regency. Nous pensions tenir deux semaines, mais la pièce est restée à l'affiche pendant un an et huit mois. Par rapport à la population d'Amman, c'est autant que pour la pièce qu'Abdel Iman a présentée pendant sept ans au Caire».



En décembre 1995, Hisham et Nabil ont fait une tournée dans les territoires occupés et ont donné une représentation en anglais à Tel-Aviv.

sentée pendant sept ans au Caire». Nabil et Hisham ont ensuite enchaîné succès sur succès avec des pièces toujours inspirées de la situation politique du monde arabe. Bienvenue au parlement

et au budget jordanien en 1992. Bienvenue au sommet arabe en 1993.

Pendant une représentation de cette dernière pièce, raconte Hisham, un spectateur s'est levé et a crié: «Qu'est-ce que

vous racontez? Arafat a signé un accord de paix avec Israël à Oslo».

«Alors on a écrit une nouvelle pièce, Salam oh salam, sur la paix israélo-arabe. Puis est arrivé le temps de la nor-

malisation. Ensuite on a écrit Bienvenue à la normalisation».

Aucun tabou pour la satire

A en croire Hisham et Nabil, les sujets ne risquent pas de se répéter. «Les sujets changent tous les jours, même si les personnages restent les mêmes».

Leur dernière pièce traite des problèmes des droits de l'Homme, sujet essentiel. «Chaque Arabe est concerné. On ne peut pas passer une frontière sans se faire «emmerder». La femme arabe est opprimée, cachée sous son voile. Quand nous comparons les femmes voilées aux tortues ninja, les femmes présentes dans le public rient parce qu'elles savent qu'au fond, nous prenons leur défense. Nous avons répondu aux besoins des gens, nous exprimons leurs problèmes. Nos pièces se rattachent à leurs conversations quotidiennes, dans le taxi ou dans la cuisine. Notre public vient de toutes les classes sociales et chacun se reconnaît dans le spectacle que nous leur présentons. Nous avons connu le même succès à l'étranger, que ce soit au Canada, aux États-Unis, en Grèce ou en Israël».

Au début, Hisham et Nabil redoutaient les problèmes de censure. Le ministère de la Culture leur a demandé d'annuler certaines scènes de leur première pièce. Mais petit à petit, ils ont su gagner la confiance de tous.

«La première fois que le chef des Renseignements généraux est venu assister à notre pièce», raconte Hisham, «je suis allé le voir à la fin de la pièce et lui ai demandé s'il voulait m'embarquer. Il s'est mis à rire. Les autorités peuvent se moquer d'elles-mêmes».

Pour les deux comédiens, aucun thème n'est tabou. «On peut rire du roi tout en le respectant», explique Nabil. «Il faut savoir doser sa liberté d'expression. Les gens avaient peur de se servir de la leur et nous leur avons montré l'exemple. Aujourd'hui, d'autres comédiens suivent la même voie». Malgré le succès, la situation du duo reste précaire. Ils comptent uniquement sur leur public pour survivre, ne recevant aucune aide par ailleurs.

«Nous sommes devenus un symbole de la démocratie dans le pays», ajoute Nabil. «Quand les hommes politiques étrangers visitent la Jordanie, ils viennent assister à notre pièce. Mais personne ne nous a jamais proposé ni aide ni financement».

Bien sûr, le problème de l'augmentation du pain inspire aujourd'hui le duo. Il leur donne de nouvelles idées en soulignant les conflits existant dans la société jordanienne. «C'est certain, nous en parlons. Mais sans appeler les gens à la révolte. Car le théâtre a avant tout pour but de les soulager».

Mona Qaddoumi

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THE STAR'S

COMPUTING & HIGH TECH

Edited by Zeid Nasser

Encryption and security of email on the Internet:

Let there be no hackers in the world!

By Jawad Abbassi
Special to The Star

IT SEEMS that the more technological advances we start utilizing, the less the guarantees we have of our privacy.

For instance, telephones are more susceptible to tapping than the somewhat less advanced, but traditionally enjoyable, method of whispering messages to other people. Also the more advanced car phones were also less secure than the conventional fixed ones. This makes a member of a primitive tribe in an isolated place in the world, probably more secure about his privacy than us city dwellers, who fill all sort of forms every day and who have ever increasing information about them stored in different information systems of banks, retailers and security services.

On the same note, the Internet's utility in communication raises questions about the security guarantees associated with sending email over it. This issue needs to be addressed if the Internet is to become the de facto medium for communication in the coming century. To truly understand the complexities of email security issues on the Internet, it would be useful to trace the path of a typical email message.

An email message literally hops from one server to another on the Internet until it reaches its destination; it is guided through its journey by

Domain Name Servers (DNS). The average email message travels through ten different servers on the Internet before it reaches its final destination. This path is never the same: two email messages sent from the same server to the same

a certain message.

Yet valid concerns on the guarantees of security remain, and they mainly pertain to the two important issues of authentication of senders and recipients, and the security of the message itself. Authentication is quite important so that people know that a message coming from a certain email address did actually come from the rightful user of that email address and is only received by the person to whom the message has been sent.

Also, the security of the message itself is of the same importance. Solutions for security and authentication are so far have taken a dual approach that encompasses both technological and legal remedies. The technological remedies include many software and hardware solutions that allow for encryption of email messages and Internet transmissions. As for the legal approach, it includes declaring it a criminal offense to practice unauthorized reading, use or reproduction of private messages that are carried over communication networks, including the Internet. For instance, the punishment in Jordanian law for such an offense amounts to a maximum jail sentence of one year. It is worthy of note, however, that while law enforcement bodies are concerned with securing

email address can travel across complete different paths and across a variable number of servers depending on diverse factors such as the status of the servers on the Internet at any given time. So while security can be guaranteed on both ends of the email "transaction", the privacy of this email could theoretically be compromised by computer literate hackers who may intercept and read the contents of these messages, when travelling across the intermediary servers. Of course, the randomness of the path taken by an email message, and the ubiquity of email messages over the Internet, make intercepting email messages also random—as a hacker will be at loss in figuring out where to intercept



so far have taken a dual approach that encompasses both technological and legal remedies. The technological remedies include many software and hardware solutions that allow for encryption of email messages and Internet transmissions. As for the legal approach, it includes declaring it a criminal offense to practice unauthorized reading, use or reproduction of private messages that are carried over communication networks, including the Internet. For instance, the punishment in Jordanian law for such an offense amounts to a maximum jail sentence of one year. It is worthy of note, however, that while law enforcement bodies are concerned with securing

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GROUPWISE IS the first Arabic/English e-mail with scheduling, calendaring and task management. Did you know that the following GroupWise 4.1 features are also fully functional in the Arabic GroupWise 4.1 client?

The Arabic/English GroupWise client includes a language menu from which users can select English or Arabic language interfaces. Therefore, users of Arabic GroupWise can both send and receive English and Arabic language messages from their desktop. Arabic GroupWise fully integrates with the English GroupWise system and shares the same GroupWise Messaging Server. English GroupWise clients can receive Arabic GroupWise messages only.

A Universal-In-Box can receive and store various data types, such as email, Internet messages, tasks, appointments

and electronic forms.

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For Network users, the NDS integration feature will simplify network and systems administration between GroupWise and Netware.

Finally, GroupWise takes on a 'mobile' characteristic by providing a variety of efficient mobile messaging products that enable users to keep in touch with information while on the road.

For more information on GroupWise Arabic, contact any Novell Authorized Reseller in Jordan including Special Systems Co. at telephone 682131 or Mirage Information Systems Group at telephone 863808. ■

GroupWise

Netscape creates new software company

NETSCAPE COMMUNICATIONS Corp. plans to extend its Internet software empire into games, phones, and pagers through a new company called Navio Communications Inc.

The Internet explosion continues as cellular phones, plug-in phones, arcade games, handheld game devices and pagers all begin to deliver some form of Internet access and content.

Already a number of major

phone companies announced Internet access and display through cellular phones. Plug-in phones with computer notebook screens and keyboards are now being touted as Internet devices.

Netscape says these devices, with far less storage capacity than a standard desktop computer, require special browser software.

The independent Navio

Communications already has 50 employees and is reportedly working with Sony, IBM, Sega, Nintendo, NEC and Oracle.

In a press statement, the new company addresses a market which has a potential base of 500 million devices over the next five years.

Navio software or firmware will be based on Netscape's Internet technologies and standards. ■

News update

Arabic Windows 95, next month

Microsoft is planning to launch the Arabic version of Windows 95 next month, September 1996, postponing it slightly from the previously announced date of August 1996, this month.

This is good news for Arabic users who are waiting in anticipation, to utilize Microsoft's latest operating system in their mother-tongue.

Since the launch of its English-version last year, Microsoft Windows 95 has succeeded in prevailing as the new operating system standard for PC users worldwide and looks set to achieve the same status in the Middle East.

For more information on Arabic Windows 95, contact Specialized Technical Services (STS), the Microsoft Authorized dealer in Jordan, at telephone number 827611.

IdealSoft joins SPA

IdealSoft has recently joined the Software Publishers Association (SPA), based in Washington, which includes the world's leading software publishers. IdealSoft is the first Jordanian company to join this international organization.

Mr. Imad Malhas, general manager of IdealSoft, stated the importance of establishing a software publishers association locally, and creating links for it with the SPA.

Seedlings disputed at US Open

By Jennifer Frey
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

NEW YORK—The 1995 US Open had two neat, simple storylines. One involved the intense rivalry between Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi. The other involved an emotionally charged reunion between Steffi Graf and Monica Seles, rivals forever linked by one simple act of violence.

The 1996 US Open is a bit messier. Some of the men threatened a boycott over the US Tennis Association's decision to deviate from the world rankings in its seeding process.

Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the French Open champion, has gone home in protest, still unhappy even after the USTA redid the men's singles draw. Sampras has not won a Grand Slam this year. Neither has Agassi, who has suffered through an incredible slump.

Seles has had injuries, and hasn't played all that well since she won the Australian Open in January. Graf—brilliant at the French and Wimbledon—is still bogged down by the tax scandal that has landed her father in a German prison. And Lindsay

Davenport, the gold medalist at the Olympics, recently stunned Graf in a tournament final.

Wade through all the clutter, though, and the 1996 US Open is likely to end as last year's did: With Sampras and Agassi meeting in one final, and Graf and Seles in the other.

This year, however, those finals will be played on the same day. In what could be the biggest change at this year's Open, the traditional Super Saturday schedule—long considered both a boon to tennis fans and an insult to the women players—has been scrapped.

The women now slated to play their singles final right before the men on 8 Sept. In previous years, the women played their singles final between the two men's singles semifinals Saturday, providing a long afternoon of often stirring tennis, but an uncertain starting time for the women's finalists.

"The women felt their didn't have a predictable time," said Les Snyder, chairman of the US Open. "There were times they had to wait two or three hours to go on, and for the biggest match of their tournament, it caused real

problems."

Snyder has had his share of headaches this week. In an unusual decision, at least for the US Open, tournament officials decided not to award seedings based strictly on the professional world rankings. The moves they made upset several players, including Thomas Mus-



World tennis player, Thomas Becker stuns audience with one of his graceful moments

ter (who is ranked second but seeded third) and Kafelnikov, who is ranked fourth, but was seeded seventh, behind No. 6 Agassi, who is ranked eighth.

After a storm of protest, tournament officials re-did the draw, but they did not realign the seedings to match the rankings, and the new draw turned out to be even more positive for some American players.

One of the biggest advantages went to Agassi, who could have faced Sampras in the semifinals in the original draw, but now would meet him in a final rematch. A number of seeded players said Sunday they plan to insist that seedings for the next Grand Slam event, next year's Australian Open, follow the rankings.

"I am sure that all of us wish that it had not occurred," Snyder said. "The main idea is that we must do what we believe is best for the sport of tennis and we must do what is best for the US Open."

Sampras still would appear to rule men's tennis—he has held the top ranking for a substantial part of this year—but he has not made it to a Grand Slam final in 1996. Boris Becker beat Michael Chang (the No. 2 seed here, ahead of Muster) in the Australian

Open. Kafelnikov won the French, and Andre Krayicek won Wimbledon.

Two of those three champions—Kafelnikov and Becker, who injured his elbow at Wimbledon—are not here for the Open. And Krayicek is not expected to be nearly as dominant on the National Tennis Center's hard courts as he was on Wimbledon's grass with that wicked serve of his. Sampras is taking no comfort in any of that.

"A lot of guys have stepped up this season," said Sampras, the No. 1 seed, who will play Romanian Adrian Panaitescu in his first-round match.

The player making the greatest strides among the women has to be Davenport. She upset Arantxa Sanchez Vicario for the first time in her career to win the Olympic gold medal, then beat Graf a few weeks later. The bubbly, 6-foot-2 American long has hovered near the elite in women's tennis, but she never has won a Grand Slam title.

"I think I'm going to have a lot more confidence going into the Open," Davenport said after her Olympic triumph. ■

Ghirbawi's silver medal invigorates Jordan's sport

AMMAN (Star)—The Jordanian athlete Imad Al Ghirbawi won a silver medal in the discus throw tournament for the handicapped in the last Olympic Games held in Atlanta. Playing within the F52 category, Al Ghirbawi competed against 11 players.

He was able to throw the discus at a distance of 17.14 meters breaking his Jordanian record of 15.80 meters.

This victory is the first achievement by a Jordanian athlete.

The Jordanian team included HRH Princess Firas Bin Ra'ad, head of the technical committee, trainer Fawzi Al Zarad and the players Imad al Ghirbawi, Adam Fahd, Muhammad Ata Al Kisbeh, Adnan Al Aboudi and Abd Al Mu'ti Al Awadat for weight lifting. Accompanying the delegation were two international referees, Azzam Al Zu'bi and Mansour Sab'a Al Eish. ■



Women continue their marathon rivalry

By Gabby Richards
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

ATLANTA—The marathon is the ultimate test of endurance for an athlete, no matter where it takes place or how many hills must be crossed. It also will be the final test of the 1996 Paralympic Games for two athletes from different countries who dominate women's wheelchair racing.

Louise Sauvage of Australia and Jean Driscoll of the United States entered three of the same events at the Games and both will race Sunday in the marathon. In their two races so far, Sauvage has two gold medals; Driscoll has a silver and a bronze.

But the rivalry didn't begin here. Sauvage was first and Driscoll second in the women's 800-meter exhibition race at the Olympics. In April at the Boston Marathon, the order was reversed and Driscoll recorded her seventh

straight Boston title. Fortunately for Driscoll, Sauvage chose to focus more on the middle distances at these Games and is taking a less serious approach to the marathon.

"I don't think I'll be doing anything fantastic in the marathon," Sauvage said. "I'll just be happy to finish, to have a bit

of fun."

Sauvage enjoyed winning the 5,000 Saturday morning at Olympic Stadium, edging Driscoll for a world record and a gold medal in 12 minutes 40.71 seconds. Driscoll, who led after 3,000 meters, finished in 12:40.80.

Earlier this week, Sauvage set a world record and won the gold in the 1,500. Driscoll was third, but she set a world record of her own with a victory in the 10,000. Sauvage does not race in that event, but she won golds in events Driscoll sits out, the 800 and 400.

The marathon begins at 8 a.m. with men's and women's wheelchair competitors leaving first, followed by all other entrants. The race starts outside Fulton County Stadium and ends inside Olympic Stadium, where the Closing Ceremonies take place in the evening. ■



German wonder-winger Libuda dies at 52

BONN—Reinhard Libuda, known as the greatest winger ever seen in German football, died of a heart attack on Sunday aged 52.

Libuda, whose mazy dribbling skills earned him the nickname Stan after England's great post-war forward Stanley Matthews, was capped 26 times for Germany and played in the team which reached the semifinals of the 1970 World Cup.

He spent his German club career with Schalke and Borussia Dortmund, scoring the goal which won the 1966 European Cup Winners' Cup for Dortmund against Liverpool. Even today, older German fans remem-

ber a legendary piece of graffiti which came to symbolize their affection for Libuda. A poster in his home town of Gelsenkirchen advertised for recruits to a religious group with the slogan "Nobody gets around Jesus," to which the fans added the rider "—except Libuda."

Libuda's fortunes went into decline after 1972, when he received a lifetime ban from the German federation for involvement in a league bribery scandal. The ban was later lifted, but Libuda failed to establish a career for himself outside football, and turned to drink. The last two years of his life were marked by a struggle against cancer, and he died a lonely and impoverished figure. ■